

Voices of the 250th Interview with Samantha Seto 06-04-2026

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Samantha Seto and Dana Treichler conducted on June 4, 2026. The interview took place at the Princeton Public Library as part of the Voices of Princeton Project's Voices of the 250th collection.

Samantha Seto has reviewed, edited, and approved the following transcript. Their corrections and amendments appear below in brackets with initials. Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

[TRANSCRIPT][1]

Dana Treichler: [00:00:01] This is Dana Treichler for Voices of Princeton. Could you please state your name?

Samantha Seto: [00:00:06] Samantha Seto.

Dana Treichler: [00:00:09] How did you come to Princeton, and how long have you been here?

Samantha Seto: [00:00:12] I came to Princeton about two to three years ago, and I was a student at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dana Treichler: [00:00:24] That's great. Which one of these did you --- 3b? Okay. What does the 250th anniversary of the United States mean to you personally? Does it feel like a significant milestone? Why or why not? What would you, what would make it more meaningful to you?

Samantha Seto: [00:00:39] The 20—250th anniversary of the United States means like a wonderful nation where there is so much cultural diversity and an opportunity to live and a nation where we just are so privileged and have so much job opportunities and a good

[1] Following her review of this transcript, Samantha Seto asked to include the following addendum: "This summer, I visited the Washington Crossing park and toured the '*Nursery of the Rebellion*' exhibit at the Princeton University library. It has informed me about the history and stories of the American Revolution. As a critical turning point of the American Revolution, Washington's crossing and leading the Continental Army across the Delaware River allowed the troops to march at Trenton, NJ to achieve the victory. At Princeton University in the eighteenth century, George Washington's troops stormed Nassau Hall during the Battle of Princeton, causing the British forces to retreat. The Continental Congress fled Pennsylvania and convened inside Nassau Hall. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. America formally became independent of British rule and gained sovereignty. In 1783, the Congress received the news of the Treaty of Paris that ended the war."

education, and I think the, July 4th is coming up, and I think it's a great, it's a great day to celebrate the independence of our nation, and I think it would be more meaningful for me to, yeah, to celebrate and remember all of our great milestones in American history.

Dana Treichler: [00:01:35] Thank you. Excellent. And then, which one from four was it? C? Okay. As you imagine the country changing over the next 50 years, what kind of political future do you hope for? What concerns you? When do you think, when you think about the ideals of 1776, how do they show up or not in politics today?

Samantha Seto: [00:02:00] I imagine the country changing over the next 50 years to become a nation that we all would love and hope for. I think the political landscape can change and to make more opportunities for everyone and to offer job opportunities for everybody to make the education accessible for all people, and yeah, I think I imagine in the next couple of years making this country really great and helping all Americans to feel happier and more at peace.

Dana Treichler: [00:02:44] Excellent. Is there anything else that we haven't talked about, but you want to include? For example, are there stories about Princeton's past that you feel aren't well known enough or talked about enough?

Samantha Seto: [00:03:00] I would say, no.

Dana Treichler: [00:03:01] No? That's okay. No, no problem. Thank you so much for participating.

[End of Transcript]