

“When I got to Beijing, I started going to events right away. Soon I was helping out, and was even recruited to be a speaker. So the step to becoming Secretary of the Club seemed natural.”



Steven Andrews '05
Secretary, Princeton Club of Beijing

Community. An important word for Steve Andrews. Arriving in Beijing in September of 2006 on a Princeton-in-Asia fellowship, Steve turned to the Princeton Club of Beijing for its active, if at times virtual, alumni community. While its membership is very fluid, with “lots of people moving in and out of Beijing,” there are usually 20 to 30 people at any event. The Club is also committed to Alumni Schools Committee interviewing, and Steve has interviewed students from main land China high schools who apply to Princeton.

When asked what compelled him to apply to Princeton, Steve mentions the commitment to undergraduate education, the small classes... and “the crazy alumni. They are so passionate! There is a real sense of community that includes everyone: students, faculty and alumni.” This impression was borne out. Steve cites in particular the Class of 1969’s Community Service Fund and its role in helping Burmese refugees in Thailand.

Princeton alumni, a community indeed.



“As president of the Black Student Union, I got to know members of the alumni community and I saw them giving back. This was the protocol: When you leave, this is what you do. You give back.”

Brittani Kirkpatrick '05
President, Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA)

Following the protocol, Brittani Kirkpatrick leapt into volunteering with the ABPA almost immediately after graduation. When ABPA president Ken Bruce '83 saw her commitment, he asked her to join the Board of Directors. She was quickly elected vice president. At “Coming Back and Looking Forward,” a University conference for black alumni held last fall, Brittani and Ken announced that they would switch positions, and she became president in January 2007.

“Coming Back and Looking Forward” was a pivotal moment for Brittani. She heard from black alumni “across the trajectory”: across generations, across economic backgrounds and gender. Black alumni are eager to get engaged on a local level and to feel a greater sense of connectivity among themselves and within the University community. ABPA’s immediate goal: to develop more regional events, with stronger regional cohorts. A longer-term goal: to cultivate mentoring programs among black alumni—not only alumni mentoring students, but also older alumni mentoring younger alumni.

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