

classExchange

a newsletter for class officers from the Class Affairs Committee

Fall/Winter 1999/2000

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Class Officer:

The Class Affairs Committee is pleased to provide to you this issue of *classExchange*. As you probably know, the Class Affairs Committee is a standing committee of the Alumni Council's Executive Committee and is here to assist you in your role as a class officer. One way we do this is through *classExchange*.

In this issue of *classExchange* we focus on mini reunions, with Jim Parmentier '66 bringing insight into the value of and options for mini-reunions. The rest of the issue is full of other information on topics from important Reunions news to TigerNet.

ClassExchange is mailed to all Class Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Reunions Chairs. If you think any other leaders in your class would find this newsletter useful, let us know and we can send you extra copies. In addition, if you have topics you think others would benefit from seeing here, please contact us.

We hope you enjoy the issue!

Sara N. Love '89
Former President, Class of 1989
Chair, Class Affairs Committee

1999-2000 CLASS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A MINI?

In recent years, an increasing number of classes have held highly successful regional events based on the concept of a Mini-Reunion. By choosing venues well outside of New Jersey, at some unique but well-recognized locale, a Mini can often draw classmates who may have been unwilling in the past to travel hundreds of miles and spend hundreds of dollars for the bands, the costumes or the hectic schedules that are found at major, on campus reunions. It will attract some of the regulars, of course, who may live close to the chosen region, but it also appeals to the spouses. The Mini is a quieter option, even more so than an off-year Reunion or the Tiger Tent at the Harvard game. It is a chance to catch up at a slower pace, to share a dinner, to test out old friendships and make new ones with people who have all gone through the same eras of their lives at the same times, if not together.

Twenty years ago, the Mini was enjoyed almost exclusively by older Princeton classes whose members had the time and the resources both to host and to attend three-day functions at exotic locale. That fact is still true . . . This fall, the Class of '46 is in China and the Class of '51 went to Paris. But it doesn't have to be that fancy. Two summers ago the Class of '42 had a wonderful Mini at Jack Huyler's ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, but this fall they went to Philadelphia, and they had a great time there too! With a bit of imagination, and some advance planning, a Mini can become an attractive option for younger classes.

What does it take for you, as a Class Officer, to plan a Mini-Reunion? The secret to planning the Mini is to not be afraid of it. Yes, everyone in the class is invited, but despite that widespread invitation, the final sign-up list is invariably manageable . . . somewhere between 20 and 40 classmates. The largest Mini I have heard about drew about 100 people (not 100 classmates). Like all volunteer events it takes at least one classmate who will seek out or offer some connection to at least a semi-private facility to hold a dinner and to serve as a base for activities. A private ranch or resort home is always nice, but it might just as easily be a Museum, or perhaps a faculty lounge, a yacht club, or a local Country Club.

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A MINI?
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Hotel or motel housing should be nearby and within the cost range of the attendees, and events can be arranged on an ad hoc basis. Things are cheaper in off-seasons . . . the Class of 1966 had its second Mini this fall on Cape Cod in September, after most of the tourists had gone. Don't schedule the Minis in remote locations . . . there's little to do on the Galapagos Islands if you're not into turtles in a big way. Stick to venues with multiple options, but they needn't be expensive. Golf and tennis, bike or kayak rentals, some special shops to browse in, a catered clambake in New England or a pig-pickin' in North Carolina, and someplace indoors in case of inclement weather is all you really need. Collect an advance registration fee and partial deposit for the rooms and the dinner, and the rest of these events seem almost to run themselves. Does everyone come who is within driving distance? No, most will be local, but some folks who have the means will travel in from hundreds of miles away. Invite teenage children and allow for one-day attendance and you'll gather in even more. Finally, realize that most of the Minis are self-sustaining, that is, the costs are borne by the participants and, with the judicious use of group rates, even those costs can be surprisingly low relative to the costs of a major Princeton Reunions weekend.

Why is it attractive? To go see a new part of the country, somewhere you have never been, with people of the same age whom you mostly already know, is a great draw. The draw of a regional event, well away from Princeton, is a compliment to the bonds that Princeton seeks to foster, and a strong demonstration of the worth of our activities as Class Officers. No fund-raising muddies these waters. No obligatory schedules or speeches accompany the events, and they frequently don't even come packaged in Orange and Black. It is perhaps the sincerest expression of our ties within a Class . . . that we would choose to meet one another near our homes just because we like to, and just because it's fun.

-- Jim Parmentier '66

Important Campus News

The Centennial of the Graduate
School

Kicks Off at Reunions 2000!

The Alumni Council Committee on the Centennial of the Graduate School wishes to remind you that the Centennial will begin at Reunions 2000 and continue through Reunions 2001. We urge you to participate in this celebration in some way, whether by inviting graduate alumni who received their degrees the same year you did to your events, naming a preceptor as an honorary class members, mentioning the Centennial in your class mailings or by attending a Centennial event yourself. More information will be forthcoming!

Important Reunions News

CAMPUS - WIDE
COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORT:

BRING BACK A BOOK!

The Alumni Council Committee on Community Service is planning our second annual Reunions book drive with the help of the Cotsen Children's Library. All Reunions attendees are encouraged to participate. Books donated can be for all ages levels and will be donated to schools and agencies where Princeton students volunteer during the year. We hope that all major reunion classes will be willing to have drop-off sites at their registration areas.

More information will be available during the spring to help you publicize this to your classmates.

Important Reunions News

SYNCHRONIZED REGISTRATION
HOURS

The Alumni Council Committee on Reunions will soon be setting standard registration hours at Reunions. These will be the only hours during which a Reunions participant can register and receive a wristband. The hours will be publicized to all alumni through Reunions mailings, the web and the Princeton Alumni Weekly. If you have any thoughts or recommendations about these hours, please contact Gregg Lange '70, Chair of the Alumni Council Committee on Reunions, at glange@alumni.princeton.edu by January 15.

TigerNet Volunteer Services
An Online Resource for Class Officers

The Alumni Council is pleased to offer class officers access to certain alumni database information online through the new TigerNet Volunteer Services. Traditionally, Class and Regional Association officers have had to make do with whatever computer systems they have had on hand to help in the everyday work of running their respective organizations. The process of acquiring lists of class or regional association members meant contacting the Alumni Council and waiting several days for the list to be generated and sent on its way. This is no longer necessary, because of the web-based Volunteer Services area of TigerNet.

By using the Volunteer Services section of TigerNet, dues, event attendance and other information can all be stored online. Email broadcasts and lists of your constituent members can be generated with the click of a mouse, instantly, 24 hours a day. In short, the TigerNet Volunteer Services are a revolutionary new way the Alumni Council and Princeton University can help Regional Association and Class officers do their jobs more effectively. Broadcast emails have been particularly useful in disseminating important information in a cost-effective, timely manner.

To access Volunteer Services, enter TigerNet using your UserID and password. The TigerNet system will recognize you as a class officer and give you access to information on the members of your constituency. (You will not have access to other constituencies, however.) For more information or to ask questions, email Domingo Monet '93 at the Alumni Council at monet@princeton.edu.

MAJOR REUNION OFFICERS!
DON'T FORGET TO START YOUR ELECTION PROCESS SOON!
CALL THE ALUMNI COUNCIL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED
HELP GETTING STARTED.

TIGER TREASURES WANTED!
"Tails to Tell!"

Princeton relics and memorabilia are sought by the University's Archives and Alumni Council's Princetoniana Committee to display the remarkable story and unique texture of Princeton's history. All kinds are welcome. So search your closets, bookshelves, and attics, and let us know what you find.

Questions? Please contact Dan Linke (Seeley Mudd Library, 609-258-4333, linke@princeton.edu), Jamie Spencer '66 (Princetoniana Committee Chair, 314-595-4474, jspencer@alumni.princeton.edu) or Lydia Sferra h74 (Alumni Council, 609-258-5814, lsferra@princeton.edu). And be sure to visit the Princetoniana Committee's website: <http://alumni.princeton.edu/~ptoniana/projects.html>.

IDEA OF THE ISSUE:
BIRTHDAY CARDS & PARTIES!

Well, we're all getting older. Your class can help celebrate that fact by sending birthday cards to classmates. This is a great way to involve members of your class. The Alumni Council can provide you with a list and set of labels of classmates in order of birthdate (month & day). Just follow the list in order and you'll be on your way! You can design a special card for your classmates or use postcards to make the process even easier!

You can also celebrate by sponsoring birthday parties around the country for major birthdays. Use your existing regional vice president network or use this as an opportunity to get more people involved. The parties don't have to be elaborate -- just fun. There's no need to wait for your golden years, either!

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P.O. Box 291
Princeton, NJ 08544

COMING ATTRACTIONS....

ALUMNI DAY is on February 26.

Pre-Alumni Day Event

Nelson Mandela will be receiving an honorary degree on February 25. A limited number of tickets will be available to alumni for his address that morning. Look in your Alumni Day materials for more information.

Alumni Day Highlights

There will be a variety of lectures in the morning, featuring "Innovation and Technology in the New Global Economy," by Madison Medalist, Tien Chang-Lin '59, and "A Tiger Goes to India: A Surgeon Reflects" by this year's Woodrow Wilson Award Recipient, Forrest C. Eggleston, M.D. '42. The Alumni Council Committee on Careers will sponsor a panel on career networking and mentoring. The annual Alumni Association Luncheon and Awards Ceremony will be followed by the Service of Remembrance in the University Chapel. Special late afternoon programming includes a discussion of "Undergraduate Education and Campus Life in the New Millennium" by Dean of the College Nancy Malkiel and Dean of Undergraduate Students Kathleen Deignan, J.T. Miller '70's "Illustrated History of the Graduate School," and "Connect to the Net!," a presentation on the wide range of ways alumni can connect to the Internet, to the University and to each other.

We have added special family-oriented programming this year, including "Winter Camp for Tiger Cubs," special presentations by the Cotsen Children's Library, "Gargolyes, Gates, and Great Halls: An offbeat tour of campus designed for grades 6-9" and "Navigating the College Admissions Process" by Dean of Undergraduate Admission Fred Hargadon and longtime Alumni Schools Committee member Nick Allard '74.

Planning Your Class Reception or Dinner

The Alumni Council can help you reserve space on campus for an Alumni Day gathering. Please contact Maggie Johnson at 609-258-5836 or mhj@princeton.edu if you would like assistance.