Ten years ago, Brian Childs was wrapping up law school in Boston. He had arrived there three years earlier by way of his hometown of Houston, TX, then Princeton (where he majored in Anthropology). With time now for an extracurricular activity, he was looking for some intellectual engagement accompanied by comfortable companionship – and he found it in the Reading Group of PANE, the Princeton Association of New England, which met to discuss books over wine and cheese in a downtown bookstore.

Childs was soon chair of this active group, putting him in the sights of the officers of PANE, who recognized a leader when they saw one. He was asked to join the board of PANE as Careers Chair, was Vice President two years later and then in 2011 became President.

It was as Careers Chair that he first became involved with the NetNight initiative. Boston had been one of the earliest host cities for this networking event that brings together Princetonians who want to further their career development and strengthen their network. His efforts once again recognized, in 2009 Childs was asked to join the Alumni Council’s Careers Committee and helped to refine the networking format that has become the hallmark of a NetNight event: a speaker focused on a career-related topic; a structured networking exercise; and a traditional networking reception. Global NetNight, when Princeton regional associations around the world host in-person networking events, was launched in 2011. Childs, who has co-chaired this undertaking from its inception, has been hard at work on the third annual Global NetNight taking place on Tuesday, March 12.

Childs’ time leading PANE was cut short when his wife Stephanie, a physician specializing in radiation oncology, was presented a singular opportunity at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, MN. With Stephanie originally from Minnesota and Childs’ law firm with an office in nearby Minneapolis, the Childs headed to the Midwest. No sooner was his family settled in Rochester than Childs volunteered with the Princeton Club of Minnesota. On the club’s board since the fall of 2012, Childs praises the club’s strength in Alumni Schools interviewing. And he is eager to share what he learned at PANE to help the PC of Minnesota expand the scope of its activities and to engage Minnesota Princetonians with the club and with each other.