Growing up in an immigrant family in a small town in Texas, April didn’t know much about the Ivy League, and she was nervous about attending Princeton. Arriving on campus, she still harbored reservations: “It was a rarefied, idyllic place, and I felt like an outsider looking in.” Determined to find a way to belong, she plunged into the life of the University, becoming an Orange Key tour guide and a residential advisor, then leading the Asian American Students Association, and eventually serving as a member of the Race Relations Working Group and the Task Force on Diversity in the Curriculum. She graduated with a major in the Woodrow Wilson School, two different program certificates and the Harold W. Dodds Achievement Award.

She didn’t pause to take a breath. After Commencement, she took on leadership of what is now the Asian American Alumni Association (A4P) and served as its president for nearly a decade. At the same time, she signed on to her local Alumni Schools Committee and was a class section chair for Annual Giving. More recently, she was a member of the steering committee for both the 2006 “Kaleidoscope” conference, celebrating alumni of color, and the 2015 “We Flourish” conference, celebrating Asian and Asian American alumni at Princeton. A former Alumni Trustee candidate, April has been on the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees since 2014, and this year is the chair of the Committee.

A lifelong advocate of addressing the achievement gap in education and still informed by her early days of working in the Admissions Office at Princeton as a work-study student, April has devoted her career in the field of education to enabling all students to access an excellent education. She sees her volunteer roles for Princeton as an extension of this commitment: to support students or alumni who have ever felt a sense of “otherness” to find a way to claim Princeton as their own. April sought to strengthen A4P so that alumni could “find a way to re-engage with the University.” On the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees, she works to identify and “bring to the table alumni who are ready to help Princeton improve, adapt and lead.”

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