With her undergraduate degree from Stanford, Susan Conger-Austin *83 was looking for something different for graduate school. Although accepted into the Architecture Departments at several other Ivy League institutions, she was most attracted to the personal attention combined with the “incredible reputation” of Princeton’s School of Architecture.

Princeton did not disappoint. Looking back, Susan raves about the “stellar group” that was her class of 14 graduate students and about the commitment of the professors, including Michael Graves. “Our bonding was extraordinary, and many of the professors were part of that bond. We were together 24/7.”

Ten years later and living in Chicago, Susan said “Yes” when asked to help organize an architecture symposium for the Princeton Club of Chicago. And there began a record of service to Princeton that still remains strong nearly 20 years later. Currently the chair of the Alumni Council’s Committee on Academic Programs for Alumni (CAPA), she was the first chair of the Graduate Alumni Relations Committee and she co-chaired the Princeton Prize in Race Relations regional committee in Chicago. She has also served as a member of the Service Awards Committee, the Alumni Relations & Communications Committee, and the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees.

When asked what prompted that first “Yes,” Susan replies: “I was honored to be asked, and found how much I enjoyed being around fellow Princetonians. It created another community for me in Chicago. I have continued to say ‘yes’ because I have had no bad moments as a volunteer. I love returning to Princeton and giving back. In contrast to other universities, Princeton truly values those who can give time and talent.”