Alumni volunteers from across the classes and the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni have been hard at work for months (and sometimes years) to make Reunions 2013 one of the most memorable ever. So, come back to Old Nassau the weekend of May 30 — June 2 to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones; dance under the stars; attend the Alumni Faculty Forums; and, of course, march in the one and only P-rade.

We can’t wait to see you!

With best wishes,

Ita Ekpoudom lives in Manhattan. Brian O’Toole lives in Washington, DC. Their work together meets in Princeton, NJ. Co-chairs of ’03’s 10th Reunion, Ita and Brian have traveled this road before: Brian was Reunions co-chair for the class’s 5th, and Ita, as Class Treasurer, partnered with Brian.

A deep affection for Princeton drives this duo. Yet when they were in high school, neither had Princeton at the top of their college list – at least, initially. Ita’s dream school had been Stanford, but when she “got the lovely YES from Dean Fred” and visited the campus, she immediately felt at home. With his home only just north of Princeton, Brian had no intention of going to college locally. He applied anyway, in part because of longstanding family ties, and then he grins: “When I was accepted, it was a no brainer.”

How did they get involved in Reunions to begin with? Brian got a taste of Reunions as a student when he ran the student crew of 1972’s 30th Reunion and then the next year served as the Senior Chair for the Committee on Reunions. Ita, who had been class president of her high school in southern Virginia, didn’t hesitate when she was asked to consider running for treasurer, to serve from graduation to the 5th Reunion in 2008. Both spoke of the same motive: these were ways to stay connected to Princeton.

For Ita and Brian, following their 5th, affection still abounded, but energy was exhausted. Both decided to take a step back from leadership roles, though not from volunteering. Ita continued to do Alumni Schools Committee interviewing of Nigerian applicants, and Brian continued interviewing in DC. Neither gave any thought to reprising their Reunion roles for their 10th – until March of 2012. They met again at a class leadership event. “It brought back all the things we loved about Princeton and about our class.” The subject of Reunion chairs came up. Brian looked at Ita. Ita looked at Brian. They both said, “If you do it, I’ll do it.” And the deal was done.

When asked just what is it that makes Reunions so compelling, both go back to the word “connection.” For Brian, it’s “the alumni connection that inspires alumni involvement that in turn makes the school so great.” Ita agrees: “It’s the reconnecting that no other school can replicate. It’s the special bond that just is the Princeton experience.”

Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni

APGA Reunions 2013
GCentennial: Living It Up!

Join the APGA and your fellow tigers as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Graduate College and remember the best parts of life as a graduate student at Princeton. Whether you lived in the GC, Butler, Hibben-Magie or anywhere else, let’s celebrate the good times at this year’s Reunions! Be sure to join us for the APGAs first ever late night party on Friday night, open to all Reunions attendees with a wristband.

Event Highlights:
- Help us help others: As part of this year’s Reunions celebration, the APGA is collecting unused hotel toiletries for Ronald MacDonald House’s Family Rooms. Please save your hotel toiletries and bring them along!
- SEARCH MONEY and register online by May 20 at http://alumni.princeton.edu/apga/reunions/2013
- On-site registration will also be available at APGA Headquarters.
- These pages were written and paid for by the Alumni Association.