If it hadn’t been for Princeton (well, graduate school), Tony Fiori would still be back in San Diego.

Born and raised in California, Fiori went to the University of California at San Diego and then worked for three years at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, focusing on healthcare policy. His deep interest in healthcare policy spurred him on to consider graduate study, and graduate study spurred him on to leave San Diego for the East Coast.

His exploratory visit to Princeton was on a raw, uncomfortable early spring day. But what he remembers most was how comfortable he felt throughout his various meetings with faculty, staff and students. “Even then, the world of Princeton was like family, and I felt valued. How could I go wrong?”

Now twelve years later and a director at Manatt Health Solutions in New York City, Fiori enthusiastically affirms his first impression. “My Princeton experience was transformative. Academically, it laid the foundation for my career, giving me the analytical skills to tackle problems and propose solutions. Personally, I made both lifelong friendships and invaluable career connections. The Princeton network opened the door for me.”

A firm believer in giving back to the institution that gave so much to him, Fiori began his engagement even before he received his MPA, serving on the Graduate Student Government during his second year. Within three years of receiving his degree, he was asked to go on the board of the APGA, followed shortly by volunteering as a Woodrow Wilson School class agent and as an APGA representative to the Annual Giving Graduate Alumni Steering Committee. Although he notes that “leadership was never on my radar,” Fiori was certainly on leadership’s radar. He became vice president of the APGA in 2010 and president in 2012.

“It’s been an exciting time to be president of the APGA, and I have been thrilled to be part of the first University conference for graduate alumni, Many Minds, Many Stripes. Planning the October conference was a natural culmination of the significant changes implemented in the graduate student experience as well as in graduate alumni affairs. It was an opportunity to showcase the incredible talent of Princeton’s graduate alumni, and a time to come back to connect with the campus, have a little fun, and engage with fellow alumni.”