



News from the Alumni Association

aluminaries

Joshua Friess *07
Board member
Association of Princeton
Graduate Alumni (APGA)



c. 2003

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Josh Friess, who had been a Physics major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, came to Princeton to study string theory. "Princeton had far and away the most renowned faculty for the subject I wanted to study," he shares. While his first year was "a lot of work while preparing for generals," he found himself in a "wonderfully stimulative and collaborative environment." He threw himself into campus life, serving on the Butler Committee, the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC) Resources Committee, and the Physics Department's graduate admissions committee.

After Princeton, Josh moved to Chicago. When he received an e-mail in 2009 asking if he would become an Alumni Schools Committee interviewer, he jumped at the chance. A year later, in 2010, he began his soliciting for Graduate Alumni Annual Giving. Soon he was attending events at the Princeton Club of Chicago, whose leaders recognized a budding orange-and-black volunteer when they saw one. In 2011, Josh became the club's regional graduate alumni chair. "I wanted to help energize Chicago grad alums, to get them more involved with their academic history." During Josh's four years in that position, graduate alumni attendance at events increased appreciably, whether at a dinner hosted by Sally Metzler-Dunea *97 or at an evening with Graduate School Dean Sanjeev Kulkarni.

In 2015, Josh passed the baton at the Chicago club to John Balfe *90. By that time, Josh had added Annual Giving's Graduate Alumni Steering Committee to his list of Princeton activities. And most recently the APGA (Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni) welcomed him onto its governing board.

When asked to comment on his commitment to volunteering, he noted that service had always been an important part of his personal philosophy. For service to Princeton in particular, he added, "I want to encourage more grad alums to connect with their regional association, to participate in annual giving. These are ways to make an impact. We benefited tremendously from our time at Princeton. We should try to make sure the generations of graduate students who follow have the same great experiences."