Peter Lighte's route to and through Princeton is out of the ordinary. A student adrift at George Washington University, he inadvertently grew fascinated with matters Chinese; and that first brought him to Princeton, still the age of an undergraduate, as a visiting student in 1969. Over the following decades, Lighte first taught and then rose in the banking world, living in London, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Beijing; but the road regularly circled back to Princeton.

"Princeton was the making of me," notes Lighte of his graduate school years studying toward his PhD with Professor F. W. Mote – "with its life changing academic encounters and profound friendships. Yes, it was a rite of passage, but not a walk in the park. But my life got sorted out at Princeton."

When he was approached in London during the early 1990s to take on volunteer work for Princeton, "it was most natural to accept." And since that time, he has served Princeton in a number of capacities. Already having been involved with Princeton-in-Asia from student days in Taiwan and by later establishing an informal summer intern program for Princetonians at J. P. Morgan Chase in Beijing, he took on Alumni Schools interviewing, became a Career Services volunteer, and sat on a number of Alumni Council standing committees. Currently, in addition to chairing APGA's Nominations and Awards committee, he is a member of the Graduate School Leadership Council. He is also involved with the LGBT conference planned for next April, celebrating the contributions that Princeton LGBT and kindred alumni have made to the University and their communities.

Now living in a Princeton house where he cat-sat as a student, Lighte, without hesitation, asserts, "For powerfully different reasons, my family and my stint at Princeton most profoundly informed the chap I have become." He and his partner, composer Julian Grant, have two daughters, Hattie and Tillie. The family was recently in London where Grant's new opera, "Hot House," premiered at the Royal Opera House as part of the Olympics festivities.