When a teacher at his Nashville high school encouraged him to apply to an Ivy League school, young Frederick Strobel knew exactly which school he would consider: Princeton. He had a vivid memory of a 1965 “Boys’ Life” magazine feature on Bill Bradley, who, with his Rhodes scholarship and his phenomenal college basketball career, epitomized the scholar-athlete. Strobel wanted to go to that school, where athletics and academics jointly reached such heights.

Princeton did not disappoint. In addition, Strobel notes the unexpected plus of the international diversity that he encountered: “For a sheltered Southern boy, the presence of a European internationalism was a shock and a delight.” He thoroughly enjoyed becoming part of a multi-cultural community, learning Spanish as much from lunch conversations in Commons as from his Spanish classes.

So enthusiastic was he about Princeton that Strobel began his volunteer life well before he graduated. In 1972 he answered the call from a Nashville alumnus who asked him to join in on some Alumni Schools Committee interviews when he was home on vacations—and he has been doing student interviews ever since.

That was just the first step in what has been a volunteer career of 41 years and counting. Having returned to Nashville following graduation, he was instrumental in rebuilding the Princeton Alumni Association of Nashville, beginning in 1979 on the occasion of an impending “state visit” by then University president Bill Bowen. In 1980 the PAA of Nashville hosted the Triangle Club during its Southern tour, a practice that continues to this day. Strobel also serves on Nashville's Princeton Prize in Race Relations Committee.

He began his work with Annual Giving in 1985, expanded it through the 1990's, chaired the National Annual Giving Committee from 2004-07, was a member of the Aspire Campaign Executive Committee, and received the Harold H. Helm ’20 Distinguished Service Award in 2012. On top of all of that, he has served on the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT) since 2010 and is the current chair of that Committee.

“CTNAT is one of Princeton's oldest alumni volunteer institutions, and its work illustrates how much the University wants alumni to have a voice in its leadership. A full voice. The Committee identifies distinguished alumni from a wide range of background and experience, insuring vitality and freshness in the University's governance into the future.”