



News from the Alumni Association

The Alumni Association of Princeton University: over 85,000 served

aluminaries

Katherine Li Thorpe '05
President, Princeton
Club of Hong Kong



c. 2003

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International travel and learning about different cultures have always appealed to Kathy Thorpe. At her Gaithersburg, MD, high school, she became interested in international relations and diplomacy. She chose Princeton because of the Woodrow Wilson School's studies in foreign affairs. (It also helped that Princeton's green campus was more attractive than Yale's concrete!)

There was always the special interest in China. Her Princeton boyfriend (and now husband) Evan Thorpe '05 had grown up in Hong Kong. Kathy participated in Princeton in Beijing the summer after her freshman year. And one of her most vivid memories at Princeton was heading to Chinatown in New York City to shop for an Asian-themed party at Quadrangle, "twirling through the stores, with their gleaming fans and bright fabrics."

So it was that in the summer of 2009, with Kathy fresh out of law school and five days after she and Evan were married, they were off to live in Hong Kong, Kathy to work for a global law firm and Evan to work for a financial technology company.

On first arriving in Hong Kong, they began going to the Happy Hours at the Princeton Club of Hong Kong (PCHK). They were soon invited to join an officers' meeting, and in a matter of months were the co-chairs of the Young Alumni Committee, hosting those Happy Hours. "It was such a fun way to meet alums, some of whom were just dropping by for a chat, others who were coming to their first PCHK event," Kathy fondly remembers.

In 2011, Kathy became secretary of the club and then in 2014, the vice president. Since February of 2016, she has been the president.

"We have met so many wonderful people through the club, whether they were newly graduated or had been in the area for decades. It is truly cross generational. People I would never have met when a student at Princeton have become close friends," Kathy shares.

She goes on: "For expatriates, it can be daunting to find a group you can connect with when you arrive somewhere new. I think the Princeton Club of Hong Kong serves as a great anchor point for alums."