“I wanted to make sure that I liked my Reunion jacket,” Lisa Washington laughs. “Maybe not the best rationale for volunteering to chair the 25th Reunion, but there’s no denying that was part of the reason that my co-chair Christie Coates and I raised our hands!”

No newcomer to Reunions committees, Washington was well aware that there was more to the job than picking patterns. She has served as Entertainment chair for her 5th, 10th and 20th, and was Reunion co-chair for her 15th. If all that didn’t keep her busy enough, she served as class vice president for the four years preceding her 20th. Not content to rest after completing her term as class vice president, Washington then served for four years on the Alumni Council Committee on Stewardship, first as vice chair and then as chair.

When she is not running Reunions, serving her class or finding ways to thank other Princeton volunteers, Washington is the chief legal officer for Atlas Energy in Philadelphia. She came to Princeton from Cherry Hill, NJ, encouraged by two “great advocates for Princeton” - Jerry Haym ’64 (her Alumni Schools interviewer) and Jesse Milan ’78. She majored in Comparative Literature (concentrating in French and Hebrew) and received a certificate in Theater and Dance, winning the Francis LeMoyne Page Theater Award as a senior.

She doesn’t quite remember the exact moment that she got the “volunteer bug” while a sophomore, but from that moment forward, she has tried to take heart “Princeton in the nation’s service.” When she finished law school, it seemed a natural transition to add Princeton to her other volunteer activities. “It’s second nature. People before me contributed so that I could have a life-changing experience at Princeton. Why shouldn’t I do the same for those who come after? Just as important, through my Princeton volunteering I’ve made wonderful friends, invaluable personal connections that have enriched my life.”

And chairing the 25th Reunion?

“It has been another wonderful experience on so many levels. Christie and I have an incredible, amazing team. We could not pull off this extraordinary event without them.”