John Hill '16

John Hill arrived on campus in 2012 with a plan: to play football, run track, and take courses he knew he would truly enjoy. He stuck to that plan.

John majored in Politics with a certificate in Political Economy and "it never felt like unnecessary work." Additionally, he lettered in both varsity football and track (indoor and outdoor). His senior year he earned the Henry T. "Hank" Towns Award for mentorship and giving back to the football team.

A year after graduation, he is still giving back to his Princeton team – although now his team is his class. He remembers that, as a freshman, getting to be on a Reunions crew "was the thing to do." He stayed with the Alumni Association Crew for three years, serving as crew manager his junior year. "We worked long hours, but I loved working with Mibs Mara," John notes, referring to the Senior Associate Director for Classes and Reunions in the Office of Alumni Affairs. So when she offered him the opportunity to be the 2016 Reunions Chair, he promptly replied, "You can count on me!"

"Alexandra Wong is a great co-chair. And I love reaching out to my classmates. There is so much energy and excitement in getting the class back together on campus for the first time."

Yessica Martinez '15

Yessica Martinez’s time at Princeton was busy. She was a co-director of the Princeton DREAM Team, a member of both the Latin America Legal Defense Fund and the University’s Priorities Committee, and a participant in the Community-Based Learning Initiative Project and Princeton Latinos Y Amigos. Not to mention classes to attend. Yessica concentrated in Comparative Literature and received certificates in Creative Writing and Latin American Studies. On the way to graduation she won the Pyne Prize and the Henry Richardson Labouisse ’26 Prize.

Yessica notes that her four years as a Princeton student were enriching and empowering. They were also exhausting. She needed to decompress. With the support of the Labouisse Prize, Yessica returned to Medellin, Colombia, where she had been born, to teach poetry classes and engage in activism under the auspices of the Corporation Culturelle Nuestra Gente for a year.

Once back home, Yessica still maintained her distance from campus. Then she was asked to sit on the steering committee to plan for the recent ¡Adelante Tigres! Latino alumni conference. She said “Yes,” and was glad she did: “It was great to hear so many different perspectives on what we can learn from each other and then give back to the students.” And for the conference itself: “I was so proud to be there among other Latinos, reconnecting with friends. It was a good reminder to find ways to connect.”