As a social scientist working at NationBuilder, the Los Angeles-based leadership software company, David Hsu *12 is laser-focused on the challenge of organizing communities at scale. He spends off-hours on a project called The Dinner Ethic, devoted to promoting a renewed culture of hospitality. It’s no surprise that Princeton Reunions has been a draw ever since he first attended as a graduate student.

But it was the Every Voice alumni conference in 2013 – three days on campus filled with conversations and events celebrating Princeton’s LGBT community – that was transformative. “It’s hard to overstate how moving that conference was, and how much it opened my eyes to the power of bringing the Princeton community together,” David shares. “My partner Peter Kurie *15 and I decided that we’d do our part to strengthen the graduate alumni network.”

So when a fellow graduate alumnus invited him to volunteer, David didn’t hesitate. Now a member of the Committee on Reunions for the APGA (Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni), David’s enthusiasm is palpable: “This year’s theme is Perfectly Proportioned to Party. The APGA represents over 25,000 dynamic alumni, leaders in every discipline. Our task is to connect them – it’s a blast!”

In the months just after graduation, Catie Cambria’s class president was looking for volunteers to take on key leadership roles as alumni life loomed large. He persuaded her that Reunion Chair would be “a cool, fun role.” Catie was convinced and signed on for the job.

“I instantly loved it, loved every second. Yes, it took up all my spare time,” she laughs, “but I learned by doing. I had great advisers, mentors in the Alumni Affairs Office and on the Committee on Reunions, all passionate about Princeton Reunions. I have never regretted it.” She enjoyed it so much that she re-upped for a second stint and became a member of the Committee on Reunions herself. She “paid it forward” by serving as a mentor to the Class of 2007, who made her an honorary member of that class at its 5th Reunion.

Now winding up her tenth year as chair, she will take on a new volunteer role: she will join the Alumni Council’s Executive Committee as an alumni representative to the Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC).

And that classmate who first persuaded her to volunteer? That was Dan Pugliese ’06. She married him in 2014.