President Eisgruber visits: Philadelphia and more

Many classes are taking the opportunity to host class gatherings while President Eisgruber is on his welcome tour.

Find a classmate who is willing to host an event in one of the upcoming cities. Lunch, dinner, or a reception before or after the regional gathering would be a great opportunity to convene your classmates. Be sure to encourage your classmates to wear their class jacket at the welcome event so that you can find one another and perhaps sit together.

Upcoming cities include:
- Portland - December 15, 2014
- Tel Aviv - December 30, 2014
- St. Louis - February 10, 2015
- Atlanta - March 19, 2015
- Dallas - April 21, 2015
- Houston - April 22, 2015
- Greenwich - May 5, 2015

Tiger Tailgates: A great way to connect with classmates

Tigers of all ages gathered in San Diego to cheer on the Tiger football team as they took on the University of San Diego Toreros in September. Classes from the 1940’s to the 2010’s gathered for mini reunions and tailgates in and around San Diego. For the Harvard game back in Princeton, over 1,000 alumni and friends gathered in Fine Plaza and in other parts of campus for tailgates and class dinners.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Of course, when all is said, it is not learning but the spirit of service that will give a college place in the public annals of the nation.”

Woodrow Wilson, Princeton in the Nation’s Service, 1896

CLASS NOTES

There may be a billion people on Facebook and 200 million members of LinkedIn, but no social-networking site has replaced Class Notes as the best way to keep alumni connected.

The Class Notes columns prepared by class secretaries provide the only searchable record of a class. Currently, 81 undergraduate class secretaries plus a correspondent for graduate alumni contribute columns to the magazine. Unlike the articles and other editorial content in Princeton Alumni Weekly, which can be found on the Internet, Class Notes are “password protected” — searchable only by Princetonians with a TigerNet sign-on. And unlike Facebook, where only “friends” of a class have access to content, Class Notes for all classes can be viewed.

PAW also offers other opportunities for alumni communication. Alumni can comment on any PAW article or memorial via PAW’s website, paw.princeton.edu. Our “Inbox” section — formerly the “letters to the editor” part of the magazine — is another space for alumni to communicate with classmates, or simply have their opinions noted.

—Fran Hulette, Class Notes and Memorials editor, Princeton Alumni Weekly
Community Service: Reunions Projects Tried and True

As the 0’s and 5’s ramp up their community service planning for Reunions 2015 and beyond, they’re looking to the past for inspiration.

Tradition:

The original graduation-class-based community service projects have come together over the years to form a robust infrastructure of programs and funding.

Princeton Project 55 (now known as AlumniCorps [http://home.alumnicorps.org]) might be considered the father of such entities. The initiative, founded in 1989, supports a suite of projects including paid year-long fellowships that encourage engagement in the non-profit and public service sectors.

Princeton ReachOut ’56 [www.princetonreachout.org] was founded in 1991 by the Class of ’56. The organization offers mentoring, provides public service fellowships, and supports a social entrepreneurship contest. The group subsequently expanded to include the Classes of ’81 (2008) and ’06 (2011) as the generations joined their parent/grandparent classes to form the current ReachOut 56-81-06.

The Classes of ’80 and ’05 are well represented at AlumniCorps, though in a less formal relationship with their parent/grandparent class. Members of the Class of ’80 serve AlumniCorps on its board and as staff and mentors, and more than 40 members of the Class of ’05 were Project 55 Fellows.

Developing tradition:

The Class of 1985 established the Princeton University Reunions Run (PURR) as its 25th Reunion project in 2010. Registration fees from the 5K run, held on the Saturday morning of Reunions weekend, are donated to charities. As the initiative was originally planned as a turn-key event to be handed down for management by subsequent 25th Reunion classes, and the Classes of ’86, ’87 and ’89 each took on the project. A different charity was chosen by each 25th Reunion class for receipt of the funds.

Last year, the Class of 1989 added a dimension to PURR by organizing a hands-on community service project in support of its designated charity. On Friday morning of their 25th Reunion weekend, classmates, family members of all ages and alumni from other classes, gathered to package meals for the Kids Against Hunger Coalition (KAHC). At Reunions 2015, the Class of 1990 will reprise the dual PURR/KAHC community service project, this time in formal partnership with classes that span the generations. The Classes of ’65, ’80, ’85, and ’15 have all signed on to participate in one or both parts of the 25th Reunion project.

The Class of 2003 received the 2014 Award for Community Service for arranging hands-on community service projects in 11 cities across the nation. The coordinated suite events of events took place in April and May of 2013, leading up to their 10th Reunion. Scores of classmates participated in events that included conducting mock high school and internship interviews for middle school students at the East Harlem School in New York; preparing a meal for the hundreds of homeless at Miriam’s Kitchen in Washington, DC; walking in Project Bread’s Walk for Hunger in Boston and raising over $680; mulching trees in Wicker Park, Chicago; bowling to raise money for children in Seattle; climbing 63 stories as part of the American Lung Association’s Fight For Air Climb in Los Angeles; and cleaning up the Wissahickon Creek outside of Philadelphia.

Looking forward:

The Alumni Council Committee on Community Service encourages major Reunion Classes to draw inspiration from these prior projects when preparing for the upcoming Reunion. Setting up a stand-alone community service organization such as Project 55 or ReachOut can be an ambitious but highly impactful approach. We also encourage creativity such as that demonstrated by the Class of 2003 in their nationwide endeavor; a more local undertaking such as the PURR that can be passed down from class to class also leaves an important legacy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the committee for support or ideas!

Resources:

• The Alumni Council Committee on Community Service (c/o Marguerite Vera ’79, mdvera@princeton.edu) is available as a resource for classes and other alumni groups seeking to start community service projects.
• Information on past projects and guidelines for starting new ones are available at: http://alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/committees/communityservice/.
• Please follow us on Twitter at @PrincetonServes.

—Submitted by the Committee on Community Service

The Art of Tiger-Backing

Gatherings are a great way to keep spirits high throughout the year, especially during non-Major Reunion years. Piggybacking (or, “tiger”-backing as I call it), off designated Princeton events such as Tiger Tailgates and President Eisgruber’s gatherings around the globe are effective and efficient ways to engage your class and connect with other classes in doing so.

The Class of 1998 has staged several successful meet-ups, tiger-backing off of President Eisgruber’s visit to Los Angeles, where more than 20 classmates stayed on for a nightcap alongside several other classes. Most recently, our class joined forces with the Class of 1994 for a post-game huddle at local wateringhole aptly named Tiger! Tiger! following the highly lauded Tigers Tackle San Diego weekend.

Calling on classmates in different regions is another way to promote engagement in cities near and far. Get creative with your “asks” as many of your classmates have interesting businesses that may lend themselves well to a meeting place. Jesse Gomez ’98 has generously opened his contemporary Mexican restaurant, Mercado, which is part of his ever-expanding restaurant group to our class for a recent Cinco de Mayo mixer.

It’s also good to enlist classmates near Tigertown. Our Class is fortunate to have Class Vice President Tannwen Mount, who has graciously hosted several kid-friendly meet-ups at her family-owned and operated Terhune Orchards.

Between gatherings, social media is another way to proactively engage your Classmates. Post trend stories, topical news, class and individual success stories via a closed Class Facebook page. Enlist a digital engagement chair to mine for story ideas and be sure to ask your Classmates before posting their news. Get creative with campaigns and contest ideas such as the Reunions “Selfie,” rewarding your classmates for participating, while “tiger”-backing off the world’s greatest party.

Most of all have fun. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing network through Princeton and staying connected has never been easier!

—Beth Brett ’98
Honor Roll

If you are looking for a relatively painless way to raise more money for your class, consider adding an Honor Roll for consistent dues payers. While an Honor Roll can take any form you wish, typically the goal is to recognize publicly those classmates with a perfect dues participation record either since graduation, or over any other period you have consistent payment records for classmates (e.g. over the last 10 years or since the last major reunion).

While an Honor Roll may encourage consistent participation, the key to raising revenue for the class is to allow classmates to pay past dues to join the Honor Roll. Some classes charge the current dues rate for back dues, while others will only charge the then applicable rate. The Honor Roll is generally published in the first mailing of the year, though it could certainly also be published on the class website, particularly if the website is password protected.

The Class of 1995 has had an Honor Roll for about 10 years. We do not actively approach classmates to pay their back dues in full, but we still have two or three classmates who volunteer to join every year. In our experience, not only do we raise a small amount of additional revenue from the back dues, but we also gain an even more loyal and consistent dues payer going forward. In the occasional situation where our class records differ from the memory of the classmate, our policy has been to accept the word of the classmate, though each class should certainly form their own views on this rare event.

If you would like the benefits of an Honor Roll, but want to avoid the record keeping needed for managing back dues, some classes use an Honor Roll as simply a means of recognizing classmates who pay a premium dues rate, rather than those with strong participation. It may seem almost too easy, but offering classmates the opportunity to pay more for dues (for example, $95 versus $45) along with the recognition for paying that higher rate may prove fruitful for your class.

—Adam Lichtenstein '95

Online Resources 101

There are many online resources for class officers and here is a quick path to get there:

1. Go to http://alumni.princeton.edu/
2. On the orange bar, click on Volunteer
3. Under Volunteer, click on Volunteer Resources
4. Under Class Volunteers, click on Volunteer Login

You will now be prompted for your TigerNet login ‘user name’ and ‘password’.

Voila! You’re in!

You now have access to Handbooks, PAW information, event planning and reports, communication tools, and financial information. Browse through archived issues of ClassExchange, view class constitutions, visit other class websites, and see a list

Save These Dates

Alumni Day 2015 • February 20 - February 21
100th Anniversary!
Enjoy lectures, lunch with your classmates, award presentations and the Service of Remembrance

Reunions 2015 • May 28 - May 31
Class Officers Luncheon on Thursday, May 28 for New and Current Officers

New From PAW This Fall

PAW has two new features of interest to your classmates.

Princeton Books is a monthly email that keeps PAW readers informed about new books by alumni and faculty authors. It includes interviews, reviews, and special features from PAW’s archives. An introductory edition was sent to all PAW email subscribers in September. Anyone who would like to receive Princeton Books can sign up at paw.princeton.edu.

The blogosphere is filled with Princeton alumni who share their thoughts on everything from planetary science to pop culture. For several years, PAW Online has compiled links to alumni blogs. This fall the magazine began featuring an alumni blogger in each issue.

To nominate a blog for coverage in PAW, email paw@princeton.edu.

Need Help or Advice?
Contact the Class Affairs Committee:

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP
Richard L. Klein ’82, Chair
Maria Carreras Kourepenos ’85, Vice Chair

MEMBERS
Patrick J. Blake ’86
Beth Brett ’98
Raymond Hsu ’11
Regina S. Lee ’85
Adam E. Lichtenstein ’95 *10
Russell E. Marks, Jr. ’54
Archana Pradhan ’92
Joseph J. Ramirez ’07
Malaika Walton ’87
Before the Class of 2016 set foot on campus, members of their 1966 Grandparent Class were already building connections with Princeton’s newest Tigers, including attending regional association send-off parties. A small group of leaders from ‘66 met with members of the Class Affairs Committee to develop a comprehensive strategy to forge a relationship with their “grandchild” class based on the concept of listening to and interacting with the undergraduates. As soon as the Class of 2016 selected its class leaders, a joint dinner meeting was held to open communications between the two classes. Thanks to those early conversations, ‘66 and ‘16 initiated a goal of establishing a new standard for Grandparent-Grandchild relationships. They were able to create a number of unique opportunities for classmates to meet members of their “grandparent” or “grandchild” classes.

From those initial brainstorming sessions and ongoing meetings, the two classes have planned and hosted nearly 20 joint events on campus and in town over the past two years. These events have ranged from a lunch/conversation with the Mayor of Princeton to a tractor tour/dinner at Terhune Orchards.

Additional examples include:

- An evening of journalism/writing at the home of Lanny Jones ‘66, attended by 20 members of ‘16 and 10 classmates/spouses from ‘66;
- A John Hemingway ‘66 film screening followed by a dinner at the Woodrow Wilson School with 40 students from ‘16 and 20 classmates/spouses from ‘66;
- An evening of finance with Jeff Shafer ‘66 at the Nassau Club with 15 members of ‘16 and 2 hosts from ‘66;
- And an intersession pizza party in both 2013 and 2014 at Campus Club, each year hosted by about 10 members of ‘66 and attended by well over 100 Tigers from ‘16.

The Class of 1966 has also invited members of 2016 to attend post-Harvard/Yale football game parties, annual dinners on Alumni Day and over Reunions, and to march with ‘66 in the P-rade. According to ‘66 President Charles Plohn, Jr., the Class is extremely proud that it has been able to arrange for almost all of its more than 20 class and class-related scholarships to be awarded to members of its “grandchild” class.

One of the most engaging programs has been the Alumni Connections meet-ups that have taken place over the summer months. Members of ‘16 sign up for the program and are matched with members of the Class of 1966 in cities across the country and around the world to provide students with a proper Tiger welcome home, or in most cases to a new city where students may be participating in a summer internship program. Ranging from one-on-one meets to festive outdoor barbeques, over the past two summers there have been over 40 gatherings, with over 160 “grandchildren” and almost 70 “grandparents” participating in at least one event. In the summer of 2014, gatherings included a Giants baseball game in a luxury suite in San Francisco, cookouts/receptions in Princeton, New York, and Los Angeles, and meals in Toronto and Jerusalem.

These two classes have set the standard for forging a meaningful, wide-reaching relationship across generations. With continued investment and creative thinking, the ‘66/’16 initiative will continue to flourish as ‘16 soon joins the Princeton alumni ranks. This is a model for other classes to consider, as connecting with your peer class (+/- 5 years from you), parent/child class (+/-25 years), or grandparent/grandchild (+/-50 years) can be a great way to engage follow Tigers and to strengthen the undergraduate experience and the alumni community.

—Joe Ramirez ’07

Photo credit of both pictures to: Charles Plohn, 1966 Class President
Successful Mini-Reunion in Colonial Philadelphia
Hosted by the Class of 1960

The Mini-Reunion was organized by classmates Jim Bromley, Kurt Medina, and Terry Mecray on a lovely fall weekend in September. Ninety classmates and spouses/companions met in Philadelphia for a weekend with History Professor Barbara Oberg to visit the American Philosophical Society and to hear Professor Oberg share her expertise about Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. There was a two hour walking tour of the Historic District, a visit to the National Constitution Center that had a new exhibit on *The Contradictions of Thomas Jefferson* (showing the treatment of his slave families), and a superb class dinner on board the world’s largest four-masted schooner, the Moshulu, on the Delaware River which included a hilarious visit by Ben Franklin himself. On Sunday the Class enjoyed a visit to the Barnes Foundation, the finest collection of impressionist art anywhere.

What made this such a successful event was the preparation. As the class has done with all of their Mini-Reunions, they identified host classmates in a particular city in which they wanted to have a reunion. This one was Philadelphia. Classmates Jim, Kurt and Terry did their homework. For at least a year before the Mini-Reunion the team was in touch with local hotels for lodging, lecture and dining options, and with the Office of Alumni Affairs asking for help in securing a professor with interests that complemented the Mini-Reunion theme. They also sent creative communications to their classmates to encourage them to participate.

Committee Chairman, Terry Mecray, commented that, “This was one of our best Mini-Reunions ever. The theme of American history in the 1770s was particularly appealing when combined with visits to the beautifully restored Historic District. The Class dinner on board the Moshulu was a perfect blend of great companionship, delicious food, and a lovely view of both the river and the city skyline. It would be a fine idea for other classes to consider.”

For a look at the creative correspondence they used to invite classmates go to: [http://princeton1960.org/pdf/phia%20mini1.pdf](http://princeton1960.org/pdf/phia%20mini1.pdf)

Also visit the Class of 1960 archives - [http://princeton1960.org/](http://princeton1960.org/) - for a look at some of the ways the class stays bonded with minis and other class events.

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A Princeton Sampler

Look for details coming your way in the *ClassExchange Spring 2015* issue so that your class can participate in the Academin Mini-Reunions on campus next fall. Here are a few pictures from this year’s Minis:

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Working with Volunteers

Princeton classes either sink or swim when it comes to volunteers; Always have. You might want to pass on to your officers these suggestions:

- Assign jobs that allow your volunteers to use their skills, but also to satisfy their reasons for volunteering.
- Give them job descriptions and make their assignments challenging and interesting.
- Give them well thought out, meaningful projects that –where appropriate—have clearly defined deadlines.
- Cut back on non-essential meetings.
- Reward them by mentioning them in class mailings (your president’s class letter, newsletter) at Reunions etc.

Most classes do a great job with volunteers, but it doesn’t hurt to scratch the fur.

(Resurrected from the Class Secretary Newsletter Archives)