REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FOCUS ON YOUNG ALUMNI

The Princeton Alumni Association of Nashville and Middle Tennessee recognizes that Nashville is a “college town” which is increasingly attracting and retaining graduate students. With that in mind, Young Alumni Co-Chair Betsy Bernstein ’04 hopes to set up quarterly events that appeal to younger alumni who have graduated in the past 10 years. The Club applied for and received a CORA grant to further its goals of trying to engage young alumni (see the story on the next page).

Young Alumni Co-Chair Daniel Stover ’03 has organized the first event: an All-Ivy trivia night at a local watering hole. The event will be held on March 25 in a bar that regularly hosts trivia nights. He envisions teams from several Ivies competing against each other for bragging rights as the champion of the evening. He and Ryan McCostlin (Yale ’10) connected and decided to plan an event, toying with several ideas before they landed on the trivia night. The organizers are hoping for 10-12 teams from different schools, ideally garbed in partisan clothing items, many of which, Stover hopes, will be orange and black.

Future ideas for young alumni gatherings in the Nashville area include an event organized around next year’s Harvard-Princeton basketball game, a brewery tour, and a summer gathering at a minor league baseball game. Club board member Rankin Williams McGugin ’06 and Club president Chris Spector McPherson ’89 will also be involved in planning these and other future events targeted at young alumni in the Nashville area.

In the Washington, D.C. area, trivia nights and drink specials also attract young alumni. Courtney Mazo ’08 and Shekida Smith ’09 help plan and promote young alumni activities for the Princeton Club of Washington. To attract recent graduates, the club offers free membership for the first three years and reduced dues for a few years thereafter. The club hosts numerous events including sports events, running and book clubs, Triangle shows, Town Meetings, museum visits, and Net Nights. President David Panzer ’95 says, “The purpose of the club is to help members do what they want to do.” As he sees it, his role as president is to facilitate the many interests and ideas of the membership. The result? A huge variety of events and activities are available to Princetonians of all ages.

One of the more novel and successful ideas for young alumni has been the Princeton flag football team spearheaded by Frank Langston ’06.

YOUNG ALUMNI, CONTINUED

Join CORA’s discussion group for regional officers and share information and best practices.
YOUNG ALUMNI, CONTINUED

The idea for a co-ed flag team originated with successful flag football team competition at Princeton. The Princeton Club of Washington helped underwrite the t-shirts for the team when they started in 2010. They compete in a league of 30 teams, all local alumni groups from schools around the country, including perennial enemies Harvard and Yale. Social events naturally are an outgrowth of the team experience. Young alumni are connected on Facebook, and the flag football team even has its own Facebook page. The club has a comprehensive website which details its prolific slate of offerings and events. Check it out at: http://www.pcw-dc.org.

MEET THE 2012 CORA GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Alumni Council Committee on Regional Associations offers a limited number of grants to Princeton regional associations seeking to achieve the next level of success. These grants, awarded annually, contribute toward the financing of activities and initiatives that support an association’s long-term strength and sustainability. The application pool was very competitive this year. We are pleased to announce the 2012 recipients:

- PAA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee for young alumni programming and engagement
- Princeton Club of Austin to support an upgrade to the club’s website
- PC of Beijing to help offset costs to establish the club as a not-for-profit entity
- PAA of the Philippines to support its efforts to host an alumni dinner with the new admits and to help elevate the awareness of the University in the Philippines

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

CORA is now accepting nominations for the CORA Award for Innovation. This award is given in recognition of associations who have developed new and innovative programming. Award recipients have included groups that created particularly engaging alumni education programs, as well as organizations that developed effective new ways to use technology in alumni outreach. Submit your nomination in an email to acra@princeton.edu by March 23, 2012.

GO TIGERS!

Search for Princeton Tiger events in your region and encourage your members to come out and cheer on our student athletes!

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