The December 2015 edition of the Regional Roar highlights funding sources available to regional associations to jumpstart an idea that can take your club to the next level of engagement. This issue also addresses the University Speakers Bureau and requests your participation in a Careers Committee survey.

GRANTS FOR REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Every year, the Alumni Council Committee on Regional Associations (CORA) offers a number of grants to Princeton regional associations seeking to achieve the next level of success. “Take your Association to the Next Level” grants contribute up to $500 for activities and initiatives that support an association’s long-term strength and sustainability. The deadline for this year’s application is January 1, 2016. To apply, visit: http://alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/committees/cora/CORA_Grant_Guidelines.pdf.

The Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA) offers Princeton regional associations seeking to further engage graduate alumni the opportunity to apply for a limited number of grants. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. For more information, go to http://alumni.princeton.edu/volunteer/committees/cora/APGARegionalGrantGuidelines.pdf.

Regional associations have used these grants for many purposes such as improving communication through new web sites, Facebook pages, or phonathons to alumni without known email addresses or financing special events that engage new alumni in their area. The application is simple and the grant may help jumpstart an idea that you have had to take your club to the next level. Last year’s grant recipients may help you formulate your association’s proposal.

The Princeton Alumni Association of Alabama had spent 18 months rebuilding its club and was eager to launch a chapter of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The Club sponsored a reception at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Prof. Sean Wilentz spoke at the reception, which also featured Congressman Terri Sewell ’86, Southern Historian J. Mills Thornton ’66, Princeton Prize founder Henry von Kohern ’66, and Memphis Princeton Prize chair Bob Fockler ’81.

Princeton Alumni Association of Alabama President Barbara McElroy ’81 felt the reception marked a new direction for the association. It helped build alliances between Alabama Princeton alumni and key civil rights organizations and will provide service opportunities in the future. She also noted “the Next Level grant is particularly useful for small associations where $500 can make a significant impact on the annual budget and help launch creative new projects.” The grant paid for printing and mailing invitations and funded inclusion of community leaders.

The Princeton Club of Orange County California used its grant to gain greater engagement of young alumni who were underrepresented at events and activities. The club created programming for young alumni and redesigned its website to make it more device friendly. The redesigned website www.octigers.com is much...
more readable across multiple platforms. It led to greater alumni engagement and made it easier to receive dues payments.

The club has also expanded its social media offerings with LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. These efforts have drawn in new members. Chris Porter '98, President of the Princeton Club of Orange County commented that “the Next Level grant is a great opportunity to bolster a regional association’s sustainability. It is not much work to apply and has long-term benefits.”

Members of the Princeton Club of Rochester noted a special need in their area, where there are many who are hard of hearing or deaf. These alumni present special challenges for engagement. The club is using its Next Level grant to develop solutions to be more welcoming and inclusive of hard of hearing alumni. The grant paid for interpreters for sign language at several club events. A precept led by Michael Stein '03 and Jeff Mansfield '08 who are both deaf, helped to educate club members about the diverse needs of the hard of hearing. One club member commented that he learned so much about deaf and hard of hearing issues that he could not recall the last time his perspective on an area expanded so much.

Club President David Chamberlain ’71 felt the club had a passion and desire to be inclusive for all members of their alumni community and hopes that their experience can serve as a pilot program for other Princeton alumni organizations. They are currently writing a report on best practices for accommodating deaf and hard of hearing alumni. Aiala Levy ’07, chair of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Committee of the Rochester Princeton Club hopes that methods and processes that their club identified may be transferrable to help include all alumni with disabilities.

The Princeton Association of New York City used an APGA grant to pay for a career and networking event for graduate alumni in New York. Laurence Latimer *01, the APGA NY Graduate Committee Chair noted that cost is often a big barrier for graduate alumni especially in NY with the high cost of living. The graduate alumni appreciated the well-attended event which focused on their career needs.

UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS BUREAU

The University Speakers Bureau facilitates sending speakers to your regional association events. Clubs use speakers to connect alumni back to campus. The goal of the regional speakers programs is “to show Princeton University at its best and help alumni—even those far afield—sustain interest and enthusiasm for the University and the scholarly pursuits of the faculty.”

Speakers can be used in a variety of events such as to welcome newly-admitted students, and give them a taste of Princeton’s academic vitality or to headline an annual dinner (or luncheon) where alumni get to hear updates on new programs and initiatives. The Princeton Prize in Race Relations events sometimes bring in a speaker to present on a relevant topic.

The following are some examples of what speakers have talked about this fall. Professor Jeremy Kasdin from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering gave a fascinating lecture to members of the Princeton Club of Northern California entitled “Discovering Other Earths: Imaging Extrasolar Rocky Planets from Space.”

Professor Larry Rosen from the Department of Anthropology presented “A Brief Stroll through an Arab City” to the PAA of Dallas during their annual dinner.

Professor Paul Chirik of the Chemistry Department is also the new associate director for external partnerships for the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment. He spoke to the PC of San Diego
at their annual dinner about the new Center during his talk “Energy Research at Princeton: Separating Facts and Fiction.”

Alumni gathering for the Princeton Club of San Diego annual dinner with guest speaker Professor Paul Chirik. Photo taken by Roger Smith ’94

Clubs also invite high-level University administrators to their regions to get an insider’s perspective into what makes the University work. Athletic coaches do speaking engagements for the clubs as well, and are able to bring the excitement of Princeton Athletics out to the alumni who can’t always make it back to cheer on the Tigers.

Please take note that the University now has new Speakers Bureau Guidelines and a Speaker Bureau Request form in order to streamline the process for requesting speakers. Be sure to use this new speaker request form at least four months prior to your event date. To help you request topics and speakers, the University has provided a list of all of the Departments, Centers and Research Programs and representative topics covered by University Administrative Departments at Princeton.

PRE-READ REGIONAL GATHERINGS

The Princeton Pre-read program introduces incoming freshmen to Princeton’s intellectual life. Each year, members of the incoming class join together to read and discuss a book that President Eisgruber selects and sends to freshmen prior to their arrival on campus.

Interested in having your own pre-read event in your region? Find information and the resources you need here: http://alumni.princeton.edu/learntravel/alumnistudies/fall15/

The Alumni Council Careers Committee developed an online survey to gather insights into career development needs and interests of regional association/club officers, Board members and the alumni that affiliate with those regions. The Committee welcomes feedback and suggestions for career-related programs, resources and support to benefit undergraduate and graduate Princeton alumni throughout a lifetime. This survey contains questions that ask you to answer from your personal perspective and, separately, based on what you know about the career needs, interests and networking preferences of alumni in your region. We encourage you to respond from both perspectives if you can. Please complete this brief survey by December 18th. Survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Princeton_Alumni_Careers

Links to several of the Princeton-affiliated Career resources referenced in the survey can be found below.

Career Services Online Resources: http://careerservices.princeton.edu/alumni/services-alumni
Global NetNight: http://alumni.princeton.edu/calendar/gnn/
Alumni Careers Network: http://careerservices.princeton.edu/alumni/alumni-careers-network

Apply for the Committee on Regional Associations Innovation Award by March 1, 2016.

Alumni Council Careers Committee

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