The December 2016 edition of the Regional Roar features regional associations partnering with affiliated/affinity groups to increase alumni engagement. This issue also highlights the University Speakers Bureau and the Take Your Association to the Next Level grant.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATED AND AFFINITY GROUP COLLABORATION

Regional associations are successfully collaborating with affiliated/affinity groups to engage more alumni in their area. Partnering with your local affiliated/affinity group allows your regional association an opportunity to reach a more diverse population of alumni. Affiliated/affinity groups include: Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton (A4P); Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA); Association of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA); Fund for Reunion/Princeton Bisexual, Transgender, Gay and Lesbian Alumni (FFR/Princeton BTGALA); and Princeton Women’s Network (PWN).

Like regional associations, these groups organize social, career development and community service events. Below are examples of activities that have been co-sponsored with one or more alumni groups.

For years, A4P has organized Lunar New Year celebrations across the country. Hundreds of alumni and their guests attended events in places like Chicago, Honolulu, New York City, Philadelphia and Taipei, which were led by A4P regional officers and co-sponsored with the local regional associations. Some of those alumni attending are pictured below.

In addition to the Lunar New Year celebrations, A4P co-sponsored events with regional associations in Chicago and Washington, D.C. featuring a chef’s tasting menu and exquisite wine pairings event from the winery of Larry Tsai ’79 and his wife, MaryAnn.

ABPA is also active in the regions. It co-sponsored a lecture on Woodrow Wilson by Randall Kennedy ’77 with the Princeton Association of New York City as well as a lecture by Professor Eddie Glaude, Jr. with the Princeton Club of Washington. The ABPA has created a new mentoring program and would like to partner with regional associations to organize professional networking and summer intern mixers.

In anticipation of the upcoming Princeton University Latino Alumni Conference, ¡Adelante Tigres!, taking place on campus March 30 – April 1, 2017, APLA hosted an event in Los Angeles featuring a special presentation by actor and poet Joe Hernandez-Kolski ’96.

FFR/Princeton BTGALA co-sponsored two events to introduce the new director of the LGBT Center Judy Jarvis to alumni. Events in San Francisco and New York City were co-sponsored by the local regional association.

Community service is another great opportunity to collaborate in the regions. A4P, ABPA, ALPA and FFR/Princeton BTGALA co-sponsored a naturalization clinic workshop in San Francisco to help immigrants answer questions and complete
their naturalization paperwork. And, the PWN organized a “bee” in several cities where alumnae discussed a community need and then assembled items for homeless women and families.

The affiliated/affinity groups look forward to partnering with regional associations on future events. Regional officers are encouraged to contact the affiliated/affinity groups to explore creative ways to collaborate locally.

**Affiliated Groups** ([http://alumni.princeton.edu/communities/affiliatedgroups/](http://alumni.princeton.edu/communities/affiliatedgroups/))

**Princeton Women’s Network** ([http://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/alumnae/](http://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/alumnae/))

**UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS BUREAU**

The goal of the university speakers bureau 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 for a variety of events including a reception for newly admitted students, an annual dinner or Princeton Prize in Race Relations award ceremony. The Office of Alumni Affairs covers the costs for faculty or a senior administrator to travel to a regional association each year. All regional associations are encouraged to take advantage of this program to connect alumni to what is happening on campus.


**TAKE YOUR ASSOCIATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL GRANT**

The Alumni Council Committee on Regional Associations (CORA) 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.

All regional associations are encouraged to apply. An idea is all you need to take your club to the next level. Past winners have included associations with both large and small constituencies, where alumni bodies may be active or seeking to engage new volunteers to revitalize the club.

The Princeton Club of Northern California, a large association, won the grant to support the Princeton Entrepreneurs Network in Silicon Valley. In contrast, a smaller region, the Princeton Club of Puerto Rico, used their grant to increase alumni engagement and the University’s profile.

If your association can benefit from a grant of up to $500, please submit an application with your well-conceived plan by January 1, 2017 to acra@princeton.edu. To learn more about the guidelines and submission process, please click [here](http://tigernet.princeton.edu/s/1760/02-tigernet/index.aspx?sid=1760&gid=2&pgid=508&cid=1277).

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**Join CORA’s discussion group for regional officers and share information and best practices.**

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