CORA Third Thursday Tiger Talk: Do One New Thing

Thursday, September 21, 2023
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Bliss Freytag Smith ’87
Chair, Committee on Regional Associations
Vice President and Treasurer (CORA)
Past President, Princeton Club of Dallas – Ft. Worth

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Vice Chair, Committee on Regional Associations
Vice President and Treasurer (CORA)
President, Princeton Club of St. Louis
Do One New Thing

• Jump start your events calendar
• Broaden your appeal to diverse alumni groups
• In-person and virtual options
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Signature Events

• Annual dinner
• Holiday party
• New admit reception
• Fall kick-off
Social/Community-building Events

- Orange & Black Day (October 22)
- Community service project
- Athletics watch party
- Ivy+ gathering (bar or cultural event)
- Arts/cultural event
- Sports: pickleball, hike
- Multi-region virtual collaboration
- Pre-read discussion
ASC-related Events

• Fall interviewer recruiting event
• TigerTeam Day (formerly Blitz interview session)
• New admit reception
• First year student send-off
Affinity groups & Graduate Association Events

• Asian American Alumni Association (A4P)
• Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA)
• Association of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA)
• Queer Princeton Alumni (QPA) formerly FFR/BTGALA
• Native Alumni of Princeton (NAP)
• Princeton Women’s Network (PWN)
• Princeton Veterans Alumni Assn (PVETS)
• Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA)
Party Packs & Financial Grants

• Orange & Black Day (October 22)
  • Grants (up to $150) & Party Packs requested through Google Form

• Celebrate Princeton Pride (CPP)
  • Grants (up to $150) & CPP Party Packs requested through Google Form

• APGA-centered events
  • Contact John Balfe *90, APGA Regional Engagement Co-Chair and Board Member at balfejp@pm.me

• Standard Regional Party Packs available
  • Party Packs are limited to 1 event per region per year
  • Email acra@princeton.edu to request
Regional Volunteer Resources

Whether you are planning an event, reaching out to fellow alumni, handling financial matters, or looking for examples and tools — here are some helpful resources to support your efforts.

If you see a lock icon next to the resource you need, you’ll need to login with your TigerNet credentials to access it.

Handbook

View and download the Regional Officers Handbook

Helpful Resources

- Regional Association Recognition and Award Opportunities
- Annual Regional Association Activity Summary and Report
- Sample Constitution [DOC]
- Instructions to file for 501(c)(3) through Princeton University [PDF]
- Community Service/Project Legal and Policy Guidelines [PDF]
- Alumni Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement [PDF]

Communications, Online Events and Programming

View Past Teleconference & Webinars and Online Events & Programming
Online Volunteer Resources

Getting to Know Princeton’s Affinity Groups and the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA)

Alumni gather through a number of identity-based national affinity groups and the APGA. These groups welcome opportunities to partner with regional associations to bring together Tigers of all stripes.

Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton (A4P)

A4P supports the community of Princeton alumni in advancing Asian-American and Asian issues in student life, University affairs, personal and professional development, and community service.

Founded in 1977, it is governed by a national board which oversees its programming and advocacy. A4P does not collect dues but conducts periodic fundraising campaigns. Its cornerstone event is its Reunions panel and awards ceremony.

Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA)

ABPA strengthens the relationships among Black alumni and with the broader Princeton University community by providing information, access to resources, and opportunities that allow for deeper connection and engagement.

Founded in 1972, it is governed by a national board which works to pursue programming and advocacy that advance its priorities. ABPA is currently a dues-paying organization, and has also conducted fundraising campaigns to support its priorities. Its cornerstone event is its alumni awards ceremony and annual meeting held after the P-rade during Reunions.

Association of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA)

ALPA advances the interests, welfare and educational aims of the University through the promotion and advancement of the interests and welfare of its Latino alumni and Latino students at the University.

Founded in 1989, it is governed by a national board which works to pursue programming and advocacy that advance its priorities. ALPA does not collect dues but conducts periodic fundraising campaigns. Its cornerstone event is its annual Reunions reception and Pachanga held in Chancellor Green.

Fund for Reunion/Princeton Bisexual, Transgender, Gay and Lesbian Alumni (BTGALA)

BTGALA, an independent 501(c)(3), works to enable the self-affirmation of LGBT people, encourage a sense of shared identity, promote awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the LGBT community, maintain a climate of social acceptance of gay, lesbian and bisexual people, and make distributions of money and property to persons who are affiliated with Princeton University as present or former students; faculty, administrators and other staff; and to other organizations for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes.

Founded in 1986, it is governed by a national board which works to advance the organization’s priorities. BTGALA collects dues and also manages an endowment that funds the organization’s priorities. It currently funds a postdoctorate fellowship in gender and sexuality at the University and a variety of programming at the LGBT center. Its cornerstone event is its After the Q-Tents party held during Reunions.

Native Alumni of Princeton (NAP)

NAP supports and strengthens the community of Princeton Native alumni, both with each other and with the University, by providing opportunities for connection and engagement, stimulating discussions and programs, personal and professional development, community service and serving as a thought leader in Native initiatives.
Online Volunteer Resources

Getting Together: Event and Program Planning

Events and programs are at the foundation of regional associations’ mission to bring Princetonians around the globe together. Every club is different, but all aim to engage as many Tigers of all stripes as possible. Plan a variety of events throughout the year, keeping in mind the need to appeal to a wide range of generations and interests.

Picking a Program and Event Space

Keep this University Policy in Mind as You Plan Events

Regional officers must always abide by the University’s nondiscrimination and equal opportunity policies and guidance when planning and holding alumni programs and activities. As a matter of policy, all University programs and activities, including alumni events, must be open to all eligible participants without regard to race, creed, color, sex, pregnancy/childbirth, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, physical or mental disability, veteran status, marital or domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics. While the focus of the alumni event or program may be of interest to those who identify with a particular identity, participation must not be restricted to Princetonians who identify with that identity, and websites, flyers and other marketing materials must state that such event is open to all eligible participants.

Given the diversity of the Princeton community, it is important that all Princetonians feel welcome and comfortable at all Princeton-related functions. For similar reasons, regional officers are encouraged to hold events in locations that are accessible to those in wheelchairs or with limited mobility.

The non-discrimination policy is your first priority when considering venues. Your next priority is to make it interesting. Consider a trendy new restaurant, historic location, museum, botanical garden, public park, theater, winery, private home, or membership club or corporate space that a member may have access to.

Annual Dinner or Luncheon: These pay-your-own-way events bring together many generations of Princetonians. They might feature a distinguished alumnus, speaker from the University or a student performing group; welcome new admits; or serve as the annual meeting of the association. Larger clubs may choose to hold an annual gala with a formal dinner at a large venue, but be mindful that attendance fees for these events tend to be high.

Focus on Athletics: Find out when a team is on the road in your region and host a pre-game tailgate, post-game reception or watch party. Consider attending a professional game together—the team’s public relations staff may be able to find someone within the organization who would be willing to speak to the group and/or offer a behind-the-scenes tour to make the experience even more special.

Support Talented Students: Coordinate an outing to see on a coed play, Triangle show or other student group when they’re performing in your region.

Ivy+ Power: Many of Princeton’s peer institutions have regional associations that might be interested in holding a joint event with your association. This has two major benefits—sharing the costs and drawing a larger audience.

Head Outside: Consider hikes, ice skating, cycling trips, golf or tennis tournaments, ski days, softball/basketball/football/soccer games, rafting, birding and whale-watching expeditions.

Family Friendly: Include the younger Tigers with a game right, park playdate, potluck picnic, backyard barbecue or a trip to the local zoo to visit the other tigers.

Happy Hours: These informal gatherings can be an especially effective way to attract recent alumni and folks who have not yet participated in your events.

Lend a Hand: In keeping with the University’s unofficial motto—”In the nation’s service and in the service of humanity”—consider being of service to your community. Associations have participated in conservation and clean-up projects, literacy training, blood drives, book drives, student mentoring and
Online Volunteer Resources

The strong bonds established between students and alumni mentors form cross-generational connections that are mutually rewarding and often last a lifetime.

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If your plans for the year include hosting a University administrator, faculty member or coach, you'll need to submit a Speakers Bureau form four months before your event. Alumni Engagement pays travel expenses for the University, speakers and liaises with the University speaker on your behalf. Regional associations send out the invitations, process ticket payments and pay all costs associated with the event itself, such as payments for the venue and food. You might also consider featuring a University speaker at a virtual event. Contact Alumni Engagement staff to learn more.

Awareness of the University among exceptional potential applicants and high school counselors, administrators and faculty. Awards frequently take the form of certificates of recognition and/or books by University faculty members or by notable alumni. Contact Alumni Engagement staff to learn more about different models for book award programs.

Lifelong Learning: Your association is a conduit to the intellectual life of the University. Faculty, administrators and coaches welcome the opportunity to speak with alumni and friends in-person and virtually. Each domestic regional association may request a visit from a University speaker once per fiscal year; the Speakers Bureau Request Form is provided. Be inspired and get ideas about who you might like to invite by reviewing our list of recent lectures given by University speakers and recently published books by faculty members.

And don’t forget the value of local scholars and speakers. In addition to inviting alumni to lecture or participate in panel discussions, consider faculty members from local colleges and interesting members of the community.

Create Professional Connections: In addition to the networking that happens informally at all regional events, host an event designed to help members make business and career connections. This kind of event may or may not have a speaker addressing related issues (i.e., how headquarters work, how to achieve work-life balance, how to write a stand-out resume, etc.), but usually does provide a structured networking session in the form of a panel, forum or reception.

Hold Inclusive Board Meetings: Board meetings can be a way to encourage involvement in the association’s leadership and activity planning. Share meeting dates and times with your entire membership well in advance. Associations may designate one board meeting as a “retreat” just for the current leadership to think strategically about upcoming plans.

DIY Reunions: Several associations hold events designed to evoke on-campus reunions, whether by holding a small P-nude or preening awards to the oldest returning alumni, the most spirited costume or the class with the best attendance. Some classes organize mini-reunions, which frequently involve...
Online Volunteer Resources

out-of-town classmates visiting for a special event. Regional associations can partner with these classes to organize events that will bring together visiting and local alumni.

Invent Your Own: The possibilities for events and programs are limited only by your imagination, and that of your members. Surveys can help spark ideas and provide inspiration. Consider an annual membership survey to see if your association is responding to the interests of your members, and seek their advice and suggestions. Surveys can also be helpful tools for recruiting new leadership, encouraging participation in club activities and learning about resources available through the local alumni community. They can be conducted through one of the many free online service providers, such as Survey Monkey. Please contact Alumni Engagement staff to see sample regional association surveys.

Virtual Activities and Programs: Virtual programming is a great option to offer throughout the year to foster connection and community among your local regional association members. Virtual programs also provide opportunity for collaboration among regional associations — near and far — as well as other alumni groups like classes and affinity groups. Consider a wine, beer or chocolate tasting, hosting a Princeton faculty speaker virtually, organizing an alumni-led panel, or planning a Princeton pre-read discussion online. The options for virtual events are endless!

Explore Diverse Perspectives: Princeton’s many affinity groups provide opportunities for alumni of various backgrounds and cultures to share their experiences, perspectives and hopes for Princeton’s evolution with one another and with the University. Regional events can be greatly enriched by inviting collaboration with these groups, whose diverse points of view provide food for thought for alumni of all ages and outlooks. Alumni Engagement staff can offer guidance for collaborating with Princeton’s affinity groups.

Affinity Groups
- Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton (AAPA)
- Association of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA)
- Association of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA)
- Fund for Reunion/ Biennial Transgender, Gay and Lesbian Association (BTGALA)
- Native Alumni of Princeton (NAP)
- Princeton Veterans Alumni Association (PVTA)
- Princeton Women’s Network (PWN)

Regional Alumni Association

University Resources
- Alumni Engagement Staff
- Campus partners (examples: Center for Career Development, John H. Pace Jr. ’39 Center for Civic Engagement)

Alumni Council Committee on Regional Associations (CORA)

Alumni Schools Committee (ASC)

Other Regional Associations (virtual and in-person activities)
Thank you!

Questions?