



ALUMINARY

Heather Butts '94

Grand Marshal of the P-rade

Photo by Sameer A. Khan

Wearing a navy blue blazer adorned with Disney-sized round buttons, a heavy velvet “Da Vinci” hat, and the broadest smile you’ll ever see, P-rade Grand Marshal Heather Butts ’94 plays her role very well.

“Being selected as grand marshal is a very humbling and huge honor,” says Heather, who begins her three-year term next month. She was a P-rade marshal for more than 15 years before being named to the top post earlier this year. “I’m very proud of the work we do as marshals, keeping the P-rade route safe and making sure that the P-rade runs efficiently and stays on schedule. We endeavor to avoid a nine-hour P-rade!”

While not in the marshal job description, Heather recalls a “funny” incident from a few years ago when she single-handedly pushed several golf carts out of the way that were stuck in muddy conditions along the P-rade route. “Service never ends!” she laughs. In many ways, that’s been her life’s path.

Heather graduated with a degree in history and a long list of activities including assistant photography editor for the Daily Princetonian; minority affairs advisor for Rockefeller College, where she lived all four years; and member of Outdoor Action and the Pre-Law Society. She then headed to St. John’s Law School and the Harvard University School of Public Health, before working at public health and ethical and legal issues

organizations. After deciding to work more closely with students and youth, she went on to Columbia University Teachers College, and at the same time, launched H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths, a nonprofit that supports young people as they transition through life. “We work a lot with young people who have been in the foster care system, who are court-involved, and we give them the tools they need to reach their goals and fulfill their potential,” she says. She currently teaches public health at both St. John’s Law School and Columbia University.



circa 1994

Outside of work and her role as grand marshal, Heather has devoted many years of service to the Alumni Schools Committee (ASC), having served as co-chair of the Alumni Schools Committee Queens. In fact, it was through ASC that Heather met Beth Rose ’77, who recommended Heather for the marshal role.

“Princeton has given me so much and the bonds that I formed there live on in so many ways. Spending time with people who understand you on a very granular level, because you’ve gone through the same experience, is almost indescribable. I cannot imagine having gone to another school, and I will forever be grateful to all that Princeton has given me.”