COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES  
Sponsored by the 2017 Major Reunion Classes and the APGA

May 2017

Demonstrating ongoing alumni commitment to “Princeton in the Nation’s Service and in the service of humanity,” many major reunion classes and the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA) have organized Community Service and Engagement Initiatives leading up to and during Reunions 2017:

The APGA, the Class of 1987, and the Pace Center have partnered to support the Community House Summer STEAM Program.

In 1969, members of the Classes of 1971 and 1970 founded Community House, now part of the University’s Pace Center for Civic Engagement, to help close the achievement gap among underrepresented Princeton-area youth. Through its student-driven education programs, Community House works with students from preschool through high school, supporting their academic success and social-emotional literacy. This year, classmates and families (ages 10 and up) from the Class of 1987 will be at Community House to help organize Community House space and prepare materials for the Community House Summer Camp program. The class will also make a donation to Community House for purchase of supplies to support the youth, and the APGA Reunions attendees are asked to donate various supplies needed to set up the program’s summer classroom. A list of needed donations can be found here. A collection box will be available at APGA Headquarters in Cuyler Courtyard throughout Reunions weekend. The project will run from 1:30PM – 3:30PM (volunteers welcome for all or part of that time) on Friday, June 2 at 58 Prospect. To sign up and for more info, email communityservice@princeton87.com and go to www.princeton87.com.

The Class of 1972 and the Class of 2007 will be teaming up to collect items for two local organizations: The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) and HomeFront NJ. TASK has requested reading glasses, rain ponchos, lightweight jackets, sweatshirts and deodorant to be distributed as needed at their Escher Street facility in Trenton. HomeFront NJ has requested donations of adult toiletries and new and gently used baby clothing, baby toiletries and picture books for their recently opened Family Preservation Center. Collection boxes will be set up at Reunion Headquarters in Holder Courtyard (’72) and Foulke-Henry Courtyard (’07). On a related note, HomeFront will be sponsoring ArtJam 2017 at 19 Hulfish Street on Palmer Square from May 19-June 6 and invites everyone to stop by. ArtJam is an annual gallery exhibit and art sale that supports HomeFront’s art programs. Hours during Reunions weekend are 10-8:30pm Thurs. and Fri. and noon-6pm on Sat. and Sun.

The Class of 1977 is returning to Peru this August to bring hundreds of wheelchairs and hope to the neediest of the needy. This year’s trip, the fourth to distribute wheelchairs in Latin America, will be special because we will be welcomed and received by fellow Princetonian, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski *61 P20, President of Peru. The trip will begin with the distribution of 100 chairs in the main plaza of Cuzco, the capital of the Incan Empire, and continue by rail from sea level to nearly 16,000 feet above sea level, distributing chairs along the way. Upon returning to Lima, the capital city of modern Peru, specialized wheelchairs will be donated at a clinic for severely handicapped children, and then the service trip will capped off with a 100+ chair distribution at the Government Palace followed by a reception with President and Mrs. Kuczynski. The Class of 1977 offers thanks to their partners, the Rotary Club of San Borja Sur in Lima, 77’s own Henry Posner III’s Central Andean Railroad and David Behring’s Wheelchair Foundation, and the many classmates and friends who have contributed financially to make this project a reality. All Princetonians who will be in Peru this August, and may be interested in joining for some or all of the distributions, should contact Bill Farrell ’77 at billf0013@msn.com.

The Class of 1992 would like to invite all returning Tigers, their families and friends, to run/walk in the 7th Annual PURR, the Princeton University Reunions Race, which is a 5k fun run hosted by the 25th Reunion Class. This year proceeds will benefit YearUp in the USA and FRESH (Females Rising through Education, Support and Health) in South Africa, organizations that transform the lives of at-risk youth through an intensive one year program. The PURR will take place on Saturday, June 3 at 8:30 on the cross country course at West Windsor Field across from Lake Carnegie alongside Washington Road. Register online in advance at www.purr5k.run or on race day.
The cost is $28 per adult runner and $20 per child runner. Voluntary donations are also being accepted if you choose not to run, just click “donate” at www.purr5k.run.

The Class of 1997’s 20th Reunion Community Service Project will partner with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Mercer and Burlington Counties. CASA was established to address the needs of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect and are living in out-home-placements. CASA’s mission is to train and supervise community volunteers, appointed by the Family Court, to advocate for the best interests of the children. Dedicated volunteers strive to ensure the emotional, physical and educational well-being of these children while they reside in foster homes or residential facilities. The ultimate goal of volunteers is to help establish a safe, stable and permanent home for each child served. In 2016, approximately 205 Mercer County children were served by 138 advocates and a total of 75 Burlington County children were served by 40 advocates.

The Class of 1997 will be hosting approximately 25 CASA kids, ages 14-19 years, on campus to participate in two workshops, a campus tour, and lunch. One of the workshops will be focused on education planning and the other will be focused on employment interviewing skills. As part of the employment skills workshop, classmates will help to conduct mock interviews. In addition, classmates are asked to drop off gently used interview attire.