



**Princeton ReachOut56-81, a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization provides valuable public service.**

- **PROF grants one year Fellowships for Princeton graduates to carry out public interest projects.**
- **PROP facilitates the application by classmates and friends of their skills, expertise, energy and experience to helping solve societal problems.**

Dear Princeton classmates '56 and '81, friends and interested parties,

A unique trans-generational effort, was launched by members of the Princeton Classes of 1956 and 1981 in 2008. In the spirit of furthering "Princeton in the nation's service and in the service of all nations," a partnership was created to perpetuate and expand existing community service programs of both classes and develop new initiatives in the years ahead.

ReachOut 56 (RO56) had been involved in community service efforts for some time through two initiatives PROP (Princeton ReachOut Pro-active) and PROF (Princeton ReachOut Fellowships) As '56 alumni saw a need to perpetuate what they had created, they began a dialogue with members of '81.

Alumni of '81 had been searching for an appropriate vehicle for their classmates to participate in public service efforts. Earlier successful efforts include Project '81, where the class sponsored the start-up of the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP), an exciting project to expand access to top tier universities for promising, lower-income high school students. While PUPP continues to grow, it has received funds from the Goldman Sachs Foundation and is integrated into the University's capital campaign, ensuring future support: the need for '81 sponsorship has been eliminated

A joint venture between the two classes met the objectives of both. A series of exploratory discussions culminated in a joint meeting at which '81 members were added to the existing board of trustees and officer ranks of RO56, and the name of the organization officially changed to Princeton ReachOut56-81.

There is much enthusiasm among classmates of both '56 and '81 for this union. One of the first initiatives planned will be to invite members of the Class of 2006 to participate in order to provide a full 50-year trans-generational span.

The President of Princeton University, Shirley M. Tilghman, upon being informed of this alliance, offered her congratulations. She observed, "From its inception ReachOut'56 has embodied the Class of 1956's commitment to public service, in this nation, and in all nations, by inspiring Princeton graduates to pursue opportunities to serve after graduation. With the intergenerational expansion of the program to include the Class of 1981, the future vitality of this Princeton Alumni organization will be assured for years to come."

With the appointment of Executive Coordinator Lon Johnson '08 on a full-time basis, our existing initiatives are being energized, and several new projects are being launched. The goal is for ReachOut56-81 to evolve into a powerful trans-generational engine. Lon's initial focus has been on integrating the good works of '56 and '81, while soliciting participation by the class of '06 and other service-minded Princetonians and friends. He has coordinated our existing cultural enhancement, self-sufficiency and mentoring programs at Paul Robeson High School in Brooklyn, New York, and the YouthBuild program at Isles, Inc., in Trenton, New Jersey. He is orchestrating the introduction of similar programs at:

- the Academy of Innovative Technology in Brooklyn, NY
- the Capital Preparatory Charter High School in Trenton, NJ

**PROF**, our immensely successful fellowship program, will benefit from access to an increased donor base. This program provides a unique opportunity for a Princeton graduating senior to spend a year on a public service project of his/her own choosing and make a meaningful contribution to society. We hope this experience will encourage a lifetime of such endeavors; it continues to be the focus of our funding efforts. Originally introduced in 2001 by Jim Freund, its '56 Co-Chair, PROF, now Co-Chaired by Jean Telljohann '81 is scheduled to award two Fellowships for the eighth consecutive year.

PROF has some characteristics that distinguish it and give special value:

- Fellowships are solely funded by ReachOut,
- Each applicant is challenged to develop, on his or her own initiative, a year long public interest project,
- Fellows participate in the recruiting and evaluating of follow-on Fellowship candidates.

Our Fellowship program and our newly-expanded volunteer activities are essential to implementing the ReachOut56-81 vision,

Join us !

Sincerely,

*Dan*

Daniel W. Gardiner  
Chairman & CEO

*Jon*

Jon Wonnell  
President

**PROF**

Jim Freund '56 Co-Chair  
Jean Telljohann '81 Co-Chair

The primary recipients of the funds from donations have been our fellows whose projects have been a dramatic success. Each year we've sponsored two recent Princeton graduates to work for a year on a socially significant project for a not-for-profit organization of their choice.

What distinguishes our Fellowships is that the candidates are required to perform their own research to find a public service organization that needs their help. The candidate and the organization work together to create the project for the year of the award. We are particularly receptive to projects sponsored by organizations that need the help and would otherwise be unable to employ the Fellow.

We make a presentation at Princeton in the spring to introduce the Fellowship concept to juniors, and then return in the fall to meet with those seriously interested. The applications are submitted by year-end, interviews are held in January, and decisions made and announced soon thereafter.

Over a dozen '56 classmates, as well as a number of the past Fellows, have participated in what has invariably proven to be a rewarding process. In recent years, representatives of the Class of 1981 have joined this process.

We awarded, on a competitive basis, two fellowships per year for the past seven years. The current stipend is \$30,000.

In 2008, we awarded the Fellowships to two more outstanding graduating seniors, Anne Armstrong and Adrienne Simpson. Anne is serving as program Director for Camp Holiday Trails, a summer camp for children with special medical problems. Adrienne has devised "Lift Every Voice", a program using music to create a choir and a college readiness effort for at-risk youths in Philadelphia.

Through the efforts of the talented and spirited young alumni who have become fellows -- many of them graduating from Princeton near the top of their class -- the financial contributions we make have served important purposes in a broad array of areas, which have included:

- addressing the tragedy of 9/11 through the creation of a published literary anthology and the sponsorship of green spaces;
- promoting discussion of race relations on college campuses;
- addressing critical community development needs such as housing, health, employment and hunger;
- educating the public (through photography and interviews) on the effects of governmental drug policies;
- training promising but underprivileged teenagers in music and the visual arts;
- teaching English to and otherwise assisting Latino day laborers;
- preparing a report card on vital aspects of the Chicago public school system;
- creating a book about arts and education programs in American prisons;
- mentoring disadvantaged students and motivating them to aim for college; and
- managing summer camps for young people with developmental disabilities and special medical problems.

President Tilghman has written to congratulate us with these words: "You have chosen wonderful students who exemplify the Princeton motto. The class has every reason to be proud of this project, which provides recognition and opportunity for students who have been committed to public service. I know a fair number of your fellows, and they are among the best we have."

To commemorate this program on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of '56, Jim Freund created and distributed a booklet devoted to an in-depth look at the Fellows: who they are, what they've accomplished, where they're presently situated, their plans for the future, and how they view the Fellowship experience. It is written largely in the words of the Fellows and you'll be impressed at how articulate they are. Also included are the verbatim comments of the grateful supervisors for whom they've worked and who think so highly of them. And perhaps the most meaningful words are the unanimous expressions of sincere acclaim for the experience by the Fellows themselves. This has since been updated for the subsequent Fellows.

To obtain a copy, contact

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These Fellowships are an excellent channel through which our financial contributions can serve a significant purpose by employing the efforts of talented and public-spirited Princeton graduates. Or, in other words, operating by proxy, on the skills and energy of these outstanding young people, we older Princetonians are doing some good.

### **PROP**

Jack Fritts '56, Co-Chair

Len Grabowski '81, Co-Chair

PROP, conceptualized in 2001 by Jack Fritts, is dedicated to finding opportunities for classmates and friends to expend talents in making the world a better place. PROP provides advice, not funding. We aim to assist organizations by bringing to the not-for-profit sector the skill, energy, expertise and experience of '56ers, '81ers and friends.

Helping at-risk students has evolved as a major focus for PROP. Mentoring efforts have received special recognition by both Paul Robeson High School in Brooklyn, and at the YouthBuild program of Isles in Trenton. Specifically, the efforts of Jack Fritts, Louise Henderson and Slade Mills were cited by Citigroup/PRHS in conferring their "I Make a Difference Award" in June 2007. YouthBuild honored RO56 at the same time, singling out the work of Arthur Eschenlauer and Jim Braswell. The RO56's organization's contribution was celebrated at an Isles community service dinner in November, 2007.

College for Every Student (CFES), formerly the Foundation for Excellent Schools, has been an implementing agent for PROP activity. CFES provides an effective entry strategy for PROP by identifying schools in underprivileged sectors where volunteers are needed and welcome.

Following an introduction by CFES, PROP volunteers have created an effective program at Paul Robeson High School (PRHS). This is an inner-city, minority-dominated school in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, blessed with a dynamic and innovative principal, Ira Weston. Our College Awareness (CA) program was developed specifically in response to a demonstrated need at PRHS as well as other CFES schools where the college guidance function is often understaffed and lacks support. Created by a partnership of RO56, CFES and PRHS, College Awareness is designed to help students succeed in the college application process.

Louise Henderson, now a RO56-81 board member and long-time college guidance counselor at the Chapin School in New York, has been our mentor in developing and implementing this program. This involves collaborative presentations by PROP and school administrators, supported by a Tony Potter '56 directed DVD *Why College*, to students as well as faculty and PTA groups..

We introduce the program to students in ninth grade, repeat it in tenth and then conduct

expanded sessions with juniors and seniors, including one-on-one follow-up by '56ers Jack Fritts, Slade Mills, Bill Rosser, Mort Chute, Larry Leighton, Dick Daniels, Royce Flippin, Bob Lee, Don Stuard, Fraser Lewis, and others. Since our involvement at Paul Robeson, college acceptances have gone from 91 in 2001 to more than 200 currently.

CA has been presented at the CFES national conferences and distributed to over 70 schools that are CFES partners.

We have introduced CA at the YouthBuild Institute, the high school associated with Isles Inc., a not-for-profit founded in 1981 by Marty Johnson '81. Isles is involved in the redevelopment of inner-city Trenton. When we presented CA to the students, we found it was not entirely suited to their needs. Accordingly Ken Snedeker, Kirby Holmes and others developed a more appropriate, expanded program including vocational guidance. In addition, Art Eschenlauer has designed a math program for their special needs and Bob Lee is assisting through advising in the English department.

At all schools, one of the most difficult challenges for students and their parents is to understand and take advantage of the opportunities available to them. CA begins to address this. Our new program, *How to Pay for College*, will include a DVD addressing the concerns of families of limited resources, to complement and enhance our current efforts. We are also planning programs to deal with the social aspects of career and life success as contrasted to the purely academic.

To help with the challenge of not only getting to college but persevering to graduate, we have held semi-annual dinners in Philadelphia with Paul Robeson graduates (Drexel and Temple students) and current PRHS students interested in these schools. Our goal is to provide a network to assist the students in finishing college. Robeson Principal, Ira Weston, reports that since we initiated this program, attrition has dropped from around 40% to 0 at these two colleges. Don Stuard and Bob Lee have led in these activities in Philadelphia, Jack Fritts and Dan Gardiner provide support from New York and Ira Weston, Simone Grey and other faculty from PRHS participate.

We are at work on expanding this networking project to other locations with concentrations of Robeson graduates including Manhattan where we held a gathering this fall.

Storytelling Arts (SAI) has been a model for this type of activity. Classmates have tried to help the founder, Susan Danoff '75, fulfill the mission of enhancing the literacy of disadvantaged children in needy communities. We have contributed in corporate direction, mission statement formulation, financial analysis, and fund-raising. Sandy Millspaugh and Dan Gardiner, as board members, have been working on a challenging leadership transition. Under the founder's hand-picked successor, the transition seemed to be proceeding well but conflicting visions for the organization developed. An interim Executive Director, Ellen Musicant was appointed to reposition the organization, a search was conducted and a new Executive Director, Carrie Wainwright, has now been selected. We continue to strive for the viability of the organization and its mission.

In other RO56-81 activities, our volunteers conduct career and cultural awareness programs at

PRHS. Jim Freund's photographic tour of New York's Central Park is a first for these students. Jack Fritts parting the veil of the law and its support operations at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in New York and Slade Mills' trips to the Youth Symphony open up new worlds to these students.

You can view CA and our other programs, as well as other aspects of ReachOut56-81 on our website—[www.reachout56-81.com](http://www.reachout56-81.com)

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Participation in PROP can make a difference in people's lives. PROP continues to explore ways in which classmates and friends can contribute to their communities. We urge any of you who would like to hear more and participate in our activities in New York or elsewhere around the world, to get in touch with:

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### **RO56-81 Highlights**

**1991:** RO56 founded by members of the class of 1956 in the tradition of "Princeton in the Nation's Service"

**2001:** PROP, as a model of public service, mentoring of Storytelling Art's founder and serving on the SAI board

preliminary discussions with class of '81 re: participation in ReachOut

**2002 PROP** initiates Career and College guidance programs at **PRHS**

**PROF** initiates fellowships, awarding two per year (\$25,000 each)

**2003:** Dan Stover is Fellow at **Isles Inc.** in Trenton

**College Awareness (CA)** program created and *Why College* DVD produced

**2004 :**CA implemented at PRHS and FES national convention

**Princeton Alumni Council Award for Community Service** presented to ReachOut '56

'81 participation in choosing fellows

**2006:** CA at YouthBuild school of Isles, Inc. in Trenton and adapted to Learning for Life

(vocational training)

Special recognition by Isles management  
RO56 contribution

**2007: “I Make A Difference Award”** recognition by Citigroup/ PRHS for RO56

**2008: ReachOut56-81** formed

Executive Coordinator hired to integrate '56 and '81

CA at Academy of Innovative Technology High School

CA Capital Prep Charter H.S. in Trenton



**Princeton ReachOut56-81  
Officers and Trustees**

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