The Venture Catalyst
The Alumni Network Newsletter
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THE ALUMNI NETWORK
ALUMNI PROMOTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

THE ALUMNI NETWORK

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Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Program

Dartmouth Partners in Community Service

Franklin and Marshall Public Interest Project

Georgetown Careers Serving Others

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Princeton in Africa

Princeton in Asia

Princeton in Chicago Schools

Princeton in Latin America

Princeton Class of 1969 Community Service Fund

Princeton Club of Southern California

Princeton Project 55

Princeton ReachOut 56

John and Mimi Elrod Fellowship (Washington and Lee University)

Public Interest Program at McIntire (University of Virginia)

Snowden/Princeton and Friends Mentoring Program

Stanford Public Interest Network (SPIN)

Syracuse University Mentor/Mentee Alliance (SUMMA)

University of Colorado Public Interest Internship Experience (CUPIIE)

Yale Class of 1957 Music in Schools Initiative

Yale Project 55

Alumni Partner with Public Education in Chicago

By Adam Arents
Project Manager, Alumni for Public Schools (APS)

Harold Russell doesn't live in Chicago. He doesn't even live in Illinois. But every Wednesday he drives for an hour and a half from his home in Lakeside, Michigan to Elihu Yale Elementary School on the south side of Chicago to work with students in the school's Leadership Club.

Harold is part of a group of Yale University alumni who have been volunteering at Yale Elementary since 1997, when the Yale Club of Chicago formed a partnership with the school.

Since then, Yale volunteers have tutored, mentored, donated clothing and books, held a Secret Santa program, and most recently helped sponsor a field trip over spring break to Washington, D.C. for 20 students in the Leadership Club.

Peter Dickinson, another volunteer from the Yale club, says, "Tutoring at the school is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done."

The Yale volunteers are not alone in finding work with the schools to be deeply meaningful.

They are part of an organization in Chicago called Alumni for Public Schools (APS), which promotes and supports such partnerships between college and university alumni clubs and individual Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

There are approximately thirty alumni clubs in Chicago that have partnerships with schools, doing activities ranging from sponsoring college visits to judging academic contests to helping students prepare for standardized tests.

APS grew out of a vision shared by John Fish and Oren Pollock, active members of the Princeton Club of Chicago who volunteered regularly at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

> "APS is there to help organize and energize volunteers so they can continue to make valuable contributions to the schools."
>
> - Adam Arents, APS Project Manager

Alumni from both Princeton and Harvard were involved in supporting schools through a variety of activities that benefited not only the students and the schools but the volunteers as well.

Fish and Pollock saw alumni clubs as an underutilized network, and they envisioned dozens of partnerships that would engage college and university alumni in meaningful service for students in Chicago.

Other alumni in Chicago rallied around the idea and formed partnerships of their own, and APS

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APS
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formed a board of alumni volunteers.

For the past two years APS has been able to have a full-time staff person housed at CPS and devoted solely to supporting current partnerships and encouraging new ones.

Arne Duncan, schools CEO, provided salary support for the first year and, since then, APS has received private support from the Gorter Family Foundation.

APS now provides a link and a means of communication between the CPS central office, participating schools, and volunteers from participating alumni associations.

Volunteers and school representatives can share best practices with each other at events like partnership workshops, which equip them with the knowledge and resources they need to be more effective partners.

The alumni clubs still face challenges as they seek to support CPS students. About half of the thirty partnerships are in a development stage as they try to gather volunteers and coordinate activities with their schools.

However, it is easier than ever for alumni clubs to work together in their partnerships by sharing ideas and encouraging each other. APS is there to help organize and energize volunteers so they can continue to make valuable contributions to the schools.

The schools face challenges, too, but APS hopes to ensure that more and more of them are enjoying help from committed alumni who care deeply about public education.

APS became an affiliate of TAN in March 2007. For more information about APS, visit www.aps-chicago.org.

In the next edition of the Venture Catalyst…

- **Internship and fellowship program placement numbers**
- **Affiliate organization updates**
- **New TAN website**

The Alumni Network news

New Colorado College Program Administrator

Lani Hinkle recently became the new Administrator for the Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Program (CC/PIFP). Lani is the successor of Ann Oatman-Gardner, who ran the CC/PIFP since its inception in 2001. Welcome to The Alumni Network, Lani!

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Increased shared fellow- and internship placements

In 2006-2007, approximately 30 year-long and summer positions have been shared amongst affiliates of The Alumni Network. This number is an increase from 20 shared placements in 2005-2006.

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Coming soon: new TAN website

Within the next few months, the TAN website will have a new look. The new TAN site will be easier to navigate and will have extensive information for alumni and others who are interested in starting a program, and resources for programs currently in place. The website should launch this summer and will continue to be hosted by Princeton Project 55.

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Connecting TAN affiliates, anywhere, anytime

TAN affiliates will soon be able to connect to each other in a new way. Set to launch in September 2007, affiliates of The Alumni Network will have the ability to log on to a system online that allows staff and alumni to connect to others in the The Alumni Network on a local and national level. Keep watching for additional information about this new system.

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TAN Program Manager leaving

Nora Samuelson, the TAN Program Manager since 2005, will be leaving Princeton Project 55 and The Alumni Network in late August to pursue a Princeton in Asia Fellowship. Information about her successor will be released this summer. To apply for the position, visit www.project55.org.

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Anticipated intern-, fellowship placement records

In the next edition, TAN will highlight intern and fellow placements for 2007.