

Azalea Kim '05, Class President

I am not usually a particularly confident person, and running for Class President was one of the boldest things I've ever done. It was probably the best thing I could have ever done, and I would venture to say that so many of the decisions I have made and opportunities I've had are directly related to my time serving as president of my class.

I served as President of the Class of 2005 during my junior and senior years, and did so in the company of some truly wonderful people. My fellow class officers were all intelligent, strong, and dedicated women who were motivated to do good things. I was lucky to have that experience of learning how to work in teams and how to be a leader in such a supportive environment so early on in my career (At my first job in the "real world," I would discover that it's not always easy being a motivated young woman in the workforce). By the end of my sophomore year, I had thought my group of friends was pretty set. My role as class president really made me open up and continue meeting people in my class. I otherwise may have taken for granted being surrounded by all these interesting and talented people!



As a class government, our efforts focused a lot on aligning the interests of various student groups to maximize the opportunity and funds available for interesting events on campus. Looking back on my career and experiences post Princeton, facilitating meetings and discussions in hopes of finding common ground among groups who on the surface have very different interests was a good skill to learn.

Before USG, I was a WPRB DJ, tried a semester with Sympoh, and was an OA leader (go bananas!). All of these activities were important to my Princeton experience and introduced me to people who have been my closest friends and allies -- some now for over ten years. USG, however, gave me my first dose of what it means to be really responsible and accountable. While I had been the student council president of my all-girls catholic high school (graduating class of 80 students), this campaign was much more intimidating and the day-to-day job much time and energy consuming. From meeting the expectations of your classmates for class events to making the right decision in the matter of honor committee hearings, the exposure to the highs and lows of taking on responsibility helped me grow up a little faster -- and maybe even to grow some thicker skin.

Right now I am almost done with medical school (I'm a fourth year at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine) and am almost done with business school (I took a scholarly break from med school to do an MBA at Harvard Business School). Before med school I dabbled in management consulting and worked on building a global health partnership in Washington, DC while getting an MPA. All of these years of studying and working will hopefully lead to a career making a meaningful impact on the way we deliver healthcare in the US. USG taught me the value of multi-disciplinary teams and collaboration, and gave me confidence to think that someone like me, a first generation kid from Yonkers, NY, could be part of the solution for big problems.

Alex Rosen '11, Class President

What kinds of projects did you work on during your time in the USG, and do you see, in your daily life, how your experiences in the USG have been helpful to you?

The other class officers and I pursued projects to build class unity and enhance the college experience for our classmates. We did this by organizing community service events, music and comedy shows, BBQs and pub nights, formals, and class gear handouts and sales. Senior year we had the additional opportunity to shape our classmates' final Princeton experiences, such as Class Day, Baccalaureate, and the Senior Prom, among others. The biggest way this has impacted my daily life was by allowing me to get to know such a large number of my amazing Princeton classmates, so many of whom I still see and stay in touch with frequently.

As Class President specifically, I had the added opportunity to work with alumni and administrators on several university committees and councils, which made me feel tied in to the broader Princeton experience, one that is evident through Annual Giving, Alumni Day, and Reunions.



Looking back at your time in the USG as an alum, what would you say was your most meaningful experience?

I think the Commencement week events were especially meaningful for me. They represented the culmination of so many great experiences over four years. Class Day in particular was an unforgettable experience because it was specifically devoted to coming together and celebrating as a class. Other experiences that were meaningful because of their impact were class community service projects and our Sophomore dining options panel, which got a lot of positive feedback.

Although I'm not sure exactly how student government will ultimately end up influencing my career path, I do know that the teamwork and communication required to serve in student government will be readily applicable to any future endeavor.