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Dear Fellow Classmates,

We want to take this opportunity to update you with regard to the Class's service project, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, and to let you know something of our plans for the future.

As most of you know, the mission of the Princeton Prize is *"To promote harmony, respect, and understanding among people of different races by identifying and recognizing high school age students whose efforts have had a significant, positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities."* We are pleased to report that the Princeton Prize, now operating in 27 regions around the country, is in excellent shape. Well over 400 Princeton alums serve the Princeton Prize either on the national board or on one of our local committees. 25 Prize winners from around the country came to Princeton in late April for our annual Symposium on Race. They were an unusually spirited group this year and gave us much food for thought as to how we organize these events in the future. Generally speaking, they had a great experience in their time here.

In past years, several members of the Class of 1966 have provided volunteer support to the Princeton Prize on the national board and at the local committee level, and have found Princeton Prize service to have been a rewarding experience. Many Classmates have provided financial support as well. In past years, gifts from the Class of 1966 have been used to fund the costs of the Symposium, the only part of the Princeton Prize program that the University doesn't underwrite. Recently, however, the Symposium received a large bequest from the estate of Dora Lee, a member of the Class of 1976. These funds have been invested alongside Princeton's endowment, and the income derived therefrom now covers most -- but not all -- of the costs of the Symposium. As a result, we have begun to examine other ways in which we might utilize our funds.

As we mentioned in our letter to the Class last fall, our late Class President and long-time national Princeton Prize board member, Brian Breuel, had a vision that we do more to "leverage" the Princeton Prize. The idea is to use our Web site as a resource for people who are looking for solutions to racial problems which they may be experiencing in their schools or communities. Over our 14 years of existence, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations has recognized 334 Prize winners and 897 Certificate winners. We've begun to log information about all of their projects into a database, with entries consisting of name, high school, location, a summary of the student's project, and other details that will facilitate sorting and searching once the Web site is fully implemented. Entries are also categorized by one or more of the following general topics based on the outcome and nature of the project: "addressing overt conflict;" "providing education to build awareness;" "providing ways to address stereotyping and unfair bias;" "promoting diversity and inclusion;" and "improving access to education, housing, and socioeconomic opportunities." We have made significant progress and expect to complete work on the database in the upcoming fiscal year. We have hired Princeton student interns to do this work, and gifts from members of the Class of 1966 are funding their work.

We have also been working with the Dean of the College, Jill Dolan; the Program in American Studies; the Office of the Alumni Association; and the Development Office to initiate another project -- **The Princeton Prize in Race Relations Senior Thesis Prize and Undergraduate Research Fund, Endowed by the Princeton University Class of 1966.** Beginning this academic year, the **Princeton Prize in Race Relations Senior Thesis Prize** will be awarded annually to a member of the senior class, irrespective of his or her academic concentration, whose senior thesis adds significantly to our understanding of issues of race and race relations in the United States, broadly defined. In addition, research grants will be awarded to a number of rising juniors and seniors to support students committed to the work of understanding and improving race relations. Again, funds from members of the Class of 1966 will be used to underwrite this project. On the reverse side of this letter is a document prepared by ourselves and the Program in American Studies which more fully describes this initiative. A peripheral benefit deriving from this effort will be an enhanced profile of the Princeton Prize within the University community.

We hope that you are excited about these new Princeton Prize initiatives and will help to support them in the years going forward. You can make gifts directly to the Princeton Prize through the Development Office or by checking the box on the enclosed dues card. We would also welcome your volunteer support on one of our 27 local committees around the country. If you have an interest in serving, please contact one of us.

We hope all is well with all of you.

Yours for '66,
Bud D'Avella, Owen Mathieu, Henry Von Kohorn

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