

## INSIDE...

Pledge Ceremony .....	2
Alumni Updates.....	2
Alumni Profile.....	3
Undergrad Q+A.....	4

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Penn Alumni Weekend May 11-14 2012

Remember! Alumni Day is coming up on Saturday, May 12th. There will be a reception at the Chapter House for returning alumni after the Parade of Classes.

## NEWSFROMTHEHOUSE

### Great Hall Furniture on Order

We anticipate that the new tables and chairs for the Great Hall will be delivered in early May, just in time for Alumni Day on Saturday, May 12, 2012. Special thanks again to those Brother Heroes who made this capital improvement possible.

## ON THE WEB

### Penn Ranks No. 1 Among Most Powerful Alumni Networks

Penn was named No. 1 among universities with the most powerful alumni networks in 2011. How have you benefited from networking with other SAE or Penn alumni? Share your stories on the message board at [www.saeath.org](http://www.saeath.org).

If you haven't yet registered on the site, use your Member ID to follow the first time login instructions. You can find your Member ID above your name and address on this newsletter.

# SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON PENNSYLVANIA

[www.saeath.org](http://www.saeath.org)

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania • April 2012

## PHILANTHROPY

### Brothers Look Forward to Day of Competition, Fun, and Philanthropy

#### SAE to Launch Inaugural Philanthropy Event, Preppy Games

This April, the brothers of the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter will proudly host their inaugural philanthropy event, Preppy Games: a lawn games tournament staged in the heart of campus on Penn's timeless College Green. Competitors will gear up for four fierce rounds of bocce ball, croquet, and badminton for a grand prize of \$250 from our sponsor Jack Wills. For students not interested in breaking a sweat, they are welcome to come down for the catered lunch, music by our fraternity DJ, a raffle and free gifts. The entrance fee goes to the charity, Variety Philadelphia, an organization committed to serving children with disabilities.

Preppy Games will stand as a signature SAE tradition at Penn in the years to come. Game creators **Kyle Hutchison** and **Michael Scognamiglio**, both sophomore Philanthropy Chairs, envision a highly successful afternoon.

"Preppy Games will be great for SAE as well as for other houses and groups across campus," Hutchison said. "The event packages philanthropy in an awesome setting. Clearly it's a hit, with a full bracket of 32 teams signed up."

*"Preppy Games will be great for SAE as well as for other houses and groups across campus. The event packages philanthropy in an awesome setting."*

For the brotherhood, Preppy Games will cap off one of our best years yet, only to be topped in 2013.

## SAE EVENTS

### Alums Return to Penn Theta for Homecoming 2011

By Dick Sawyer '61

Homecoming 2011 included a beautiful day, a Penn walloping of Princeton, and a warm welcome by the actives, especially **Jack Robinson**, Alumni Co-Chair, to the returning alums. As evidenced by this photo, the representatives from the 1958-1964 Donors to the Dining Room Fund made the presentation of the contribution for the Great Hall Improvements (or as **Gordon Pine '60** termed it—the 1958 - 1964 Dining Room Fund) from our group in the amount of \$4,000. The total amount raised has subsequently increased to \$4,400. I have asked Jack to keep us advised on the progress of the project as they move forward.



Caption: From left to right: Andrew Musser, John Colavita, Dylan Petro, David Thomas, Jeff Karp '88, Drew Meyers, Lee Mielcarek '58, Daniel Riband, Alex Bromberg, Henry Litman, John McConnell '62, Michael Briener, Dick Sawyer '61, Jack Robinson, James Karivalis, Harry Fisher '89 and Aaron Campbell at Homecoming 2011.

# SPRING PLEDGE REPORT

## Brothers Revisit the Importance of Initiation and Pledging Ceremonies

By Nate Ashton, Eminent Herald

As the spring semester draws to a close, the Penn Theta has initiated another strong class of pledges. Over the past weeks they have grown in the bonds of brotherhood, learned our history and values through The Phoenix and The True Gentleman, and participated in many of the longstanding traditions and rituals of our chapter.

We've also tried some new things, offering fall rush and pledging for the first time in recent memory. I can say with conviction that the sense of brotherhood and the

commitment to the ideals of SAE remain as strong as I've seen in the brotherhood throughout my four years here. As we look forward to the coming years and future pledge classes, there are still ways in which our pledging process can be improved upon in order to continue instilling the values of SAE on new pledges.

The chapter currently does not own its own set of ritual equipment for use during initiation and pledge induction. For these momentous occasions, it makes a big

difference to have the full set of robes and paraphernalia. This is an experience that unfortunately the pledge classes of 2010 and 2011 were not able to enjoy. I believe that adding a set of ritual equipment to our house would add to the coherence and sincerity of our initiation and induction ceremonies. A list of equipment that we need can be found below. If you are interested in donating a set of robes or equipment to the house, please contact one of our alumni chairs.

## PLEDGE PROCESS

### Initiation Ceremony Extras Every Chapter Should Use

*Below is a list of items required by Sigma Alpha Epsilon for initiation and ritual ceremonies. If you are able to help donate these items to Penn Theta, please contact our Alumni President, Steve Saltzman.*

- Table Candle Holders (6 total)
- Candles- Purple (6)
- Candle Lighters (3 package set of butane type; one for front, one for rear, one spare)
- SAE 4 x 6 flags; one to drape over funeral bier and one to hang behind the Alter
- Push pins, clear plastic (to assist in hanging the flag over the Alter)
- Greek Column style Alter of Friendship (to hold Lamp of Friendship)
- Lamp oil (uncolored and unscented)
- Funeral Bier head pillow
- Funeral Bier silk/artificial purple and gold flowers, tied with a nice gold bow
- Aluminum easels
- Extension cords (three total, one for each lighted box, sized for room with wall outlet location)
- Table Cloths (see following 3 bullet points)
- 1 for each lighted box easel: Cost-of-Arms, Badge, Inescutcheon (3-48" round)
- 2 for funeral scene (2-72" oval or rectangular)
- 1 for each station: Alter, Recorder, Chronicler (3-60" rectangular)
- Phoenix Pledge Manual, borrow from a chapter (placed on Eminent Recorder's station)
- Bottled water for each officer and possible pledge fainting (one dozen small bottles)
- Wooden hangers for all Ritual Robes (avoid wire and flimsy plastic style)
- Poster board sheets to cover windows and doors (if needed)
- Roll of masking tape to affix poster board

Contact Steve Saltzman at [srsaltzman@comcast.net](mailto:srsaltzman@comcast.net)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Harold A. Denmark, Sr. '52

(930 N.W. 12th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32606-5460; denmarkh@bellsouth.net) I published a 451-page book on the phytoseiidae of North America and Hawaii last January.

### Christopher Roman '91

(3726 Planters Creek Circle, West Jacksonville, FL 32224-7660; chrisroman@comcast.net) I am currently a practicing Radiologist in Jacksonville, FL and member of the First Coast Penn Alumni Club locally.

I am also an active Ultrarunner competing in events at or beyond 100 miles. The Ultrarunning community has become a large part of my own family. I have had plenty of wonderful adventures over the last few years. I also have served as a board member and am a very active fundraiser for an amazing non-profit, The Challenged Athletes Foundation, that raises money to help people with disabilities maintain an active lifestyle through athletics.



Badwater 2011

Last July I was accepted into and completed the Badwater 135 Ultramarathon in Death Valley finishing 16th overall in its most elite field to date. Badwater is considered by many to be the world's toughest footrace. It is a point to point 135 mile footrace run in Death Valley every July.

In a few weeks I will be applying to compete in the 2012 race and hope to finish in the top ten.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Brothers Who Reunite for First Time in 50+ Years Prove the SAE Bonds Last Throughout a Lifetime

#### *Ron Bond '59 Recalls How Reconnecting with Brothers as an Alum is Refreshing and Exciting*

After graduation, many people go into the business world to start their careers. Unlike many of his brothers, **Ron Bond '59** didn't take an ordinary career path after graduating; Ron joined the Air Force for 28 years of service. Ron spent most of his time in the service flying a 707, which is a KC 135 Tanker that refuels other planes.

His duties shifted during the Vietnam War however. Due to need, Ron flew an RF-4 as a fighter pilot during the war. "It was exciting taking pictures of North Vietnam and Laos, but I didn't enjoy getting shot at," Ron recalls. He then spent the last 8 years of his service time flying congressmen and their families around the world. After leaving the military, Ron worked with the Army Corps of Engineers as a contractor flying up and down the Mississippi River repairing dam sites for 14 years.

***"Ron had a recent encounter with a brother that proved that the SAE bonds are lifelong. He was at Penn State attending the Nebraska game with his wife during Veteran's Day Weekend and ran into Bob Lamb for the first time since 1958. Despite all of the years that had passed, the two recognized each other immediately and enjoyed spending the weekend together catching up and reminiscing on old times."***

Needless to say, as busy as Ron was he lost contact with Penn Theta. Two years ago, Ron attended the funeral of his back-seater from Vietnam at the Arlington National Cemetery. He was a major from New York City and his wife asked Ron to speak at the funeral.

The same weekend as the funeral, Ron decided to take a visit back to

Philadelphia for Penn's Homecoming weekend where he got to reconnect with many of the brothers he hadn't seen in so long. "After being away for so many years, it was great to see the guys I lived in the house with. For someone that's been away for so long, reconnecting with that many brothers was really refreshing and exciting," Ron said.

Attending that reunion at Penn reminded Ron of the joy he got out of his SAE experience. Ron didn't intend on joining a fraternity when he first attended Penn, "I was a small town boy from Downingtown with no intentions of joining a fraternity when I began college, but I realized that you couldn't do anything on campus without joining," he explains. While working in the dining hall, Bob met **Bob Lamb '58** and **Lloyd Swain** and they convinced him to check out SAE. "I ended up really liking SAE and the brothers so it was a natural fit," Ron says of why he joined SAE.

While at Penn Theta, Ron made many great memories, but initiation still stands out as a memorable experience more than 50 years later. Ron also enjoyed being the house manager, "When I was house manager, I spent many exciting days trying to patch things up and keep them working around the house, I really enjoyed it," he says.

One interesting point to note is that Ron's name changed during his college years. He was adopted at age 21 and his last name changed from Jefferis to Bond. A few years ago he ran into a brother in Portland who was pledging during Ron's



*Ron Bond's model train set*

name change. The brother recalled his pledge class having a hard time with Ron because they continuously confused Ron Bond with Ron Jefferis.

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a brother that proved that the SAE bonds are lifelong. He was at Penn State attending the Nebraska game with his wife during Veteran's Day Weekend and ran into Bob Lamb for the first time since 1958. Despite all of the years that had passed, the two recognized each other immediately and enjoyed spending the weekend together catching up and reminiscing on old times.

Today, Ron enjoys his retirement in Omaha, staying busy with his model train set. He initially became interested in model trains when his father bought him his first train set at age four. His father worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad for several years and Ron loved taking train rides with him as a child. Ron continued to enjoy this hobby while traveling in the military by setting up model train sets for boy scouts and other organizations.

After retiring, Ron began collecting model trains again and currently has a 1,100 square foot layout in his basement that's really something to see. He even had a national convention stop by and visit his display last July. "I have a great collection; it's been going on for 11 years and is always under construction," adds Ron.

***Brothers can connect with Ron at [ronsuzebond@cox.net](mailto:ronsuzebond@cox.net).***

***Do you know of a Penn Theta alum who would make an interesting feature profile candidate? Send us his name and a little background info at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) (mention SAE at Penn).***

## UNDERGRADUATE Q&A

*Henry Litman '12 is a former eminent archon that is graduating in May with a degree in political science. After graduation, Henry plans to move to Washington DC to work for Penn Schoen Berland, a polling research and strategic communications firm run by Mark Penn.*

### **Why did you join SAE?**

I wasn't exactly planning to join a fraternity. At first I went to rush events just for the free dinner. At the first rush event, I met a guy **Adam Bloch** that I really saw myself becoming friends with. I figured that, if the other SAEs were like him, this would probably be a good place for me. Adam ended up becoming my big and is still one of my best friends, even though he has graduated. I am an only child, and the opportunity to have "brothers" for the first time in my life really appealed to me. When I got my bid, I just couldn't say no to it.

### **What is your best SAE memory?**

Man, I can't put my finger on just one. This has been the experience of a lifetime. If I had to put my finger on just a few memories: My first golf night, every big-little night, 80s party and having chapter dinner every night with my brothers.

### **How have you been involved in the house?**

Most recently, I was Eminent Archon. I have a unique talent for making chapter meetings really long and uninteresting. I also used to be alumni chairman. I was actually the worst Alumni Chairman in recent memory. I hosted the second annual Alumni Beer Die Tournament (the first one was an unbelievable success and one of my best memories at Penn). The problem is we got in a little bit of trouble with the university right before the event and we weren't able to hold it at the chapter house. As a result, only one alum came. Thank you, **Sean Steinmarc!**

### **How would your life be different if you never joined SAE?**

I sure wouldn't have as many friends! I also think that I would be a less confident person. Being in a fraternity really forces you to be part of a community. I think that community bonds can be really weak in college. It is easy



to cruise through your four years, because you aren't really accountable to anyone for the first time in your life. Being in SAE changed that. You have a strong community, and you have to find your place in that community in order for it to thrive. It's a good feeling to be a part of something like that. I needed SAE, and SAE needed me. I think it gave me confidence to be myself in other situations.

*Inside...  
-A Reminder of the Importance of Initiation/Pledge Ceremonies  
-Details of Alumni Weekend  
-The Story of Two Brothers Who Reconnected 50+ Years After  
Graduation*

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