

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Alumni Weekend Is Set For May 12-15

Alumni weekend will be May 12-15. This year, the event kicks off with FranklinFest on Friday night. Don't miss it.

For more information, go to alumni.upenn.edu.

CONTACT INFO

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HELP WANTED

National Office Seeking Coordinator of Member Services

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, located in Evanston, Ill., is seeking an ambitious, self-motivated individual to join our staff as the Coordinator of Member Services.

The Coordinator will provide support and customer service to chapters, colonies, collegiate members and alumni. This position will assist members with reporting forms, updates and database information as well as processing payments for membership fees, event registrations and annual invoices.

Interested parties should send a résumé and letter of interest to Ross Pometta, Director of Member Services, at rpometta@sae.net, by March 15.

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON PENNSYLVANIA

www.saepath.org

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Steven Sloan '77 Joins House Corporation Board

Brother Steve Sloan '77 (Vero Beach, Fla. and Santa Fe, N.M.) has joined Penn Theta's House Corporation Board and is serving as a Vice-President, assisting House Corporation President **Steve Saltzman '85**, the latter having graciously and excellently served in that capacity for 30 years.

Brother Sloan will assist Brother Saltzman in the areas of University of Pennsylvania and SAE National Office affairs and Penn Theta Alumni communications and fund-raising. Brother Saltzman will focus on on-going Chapter affairs and governance and House maintenance and capital improvement expenditures. Brother Sloan stated: "My days as a Penn Theta active made my Penn experience the success and joy that it was and several of the brothers (George Warmack, Steve Ambrose, Mitch Marantz, among others) I first met in SAE continue as my best friends and business partners to this day, over 40 years. I am pleased to be able to assist Brother Saltzman in our efforts to keep the Penn Theta tradition of excellence alive for many actives to come, so they can derive the same life-enhancing benefits to which I have been blessed."

Steve can be reached at stevensloan@sprynet.com and welcomes hearing from his Brothers!

Saltzman and Sloan Meet with University's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

As part of introducing Brother Sloan



Brother Sloan is shown in the photo above, third from the left. He's joined by George Warmack (left) and Mitch Marantz (center) at the Chapter House at homecoming last year.

to the University, he and Brother Saltzman met with the Director of OFSL to discuss Chapter activities, rush plans, operating budgets and capital improvement projects. We are very hopeful that further budget meetings to be held this month will result in the scheduling of electrical improvements/upgrades, the air-conditioning and remodeling of the Chapter Room, remodeling of upper floor bathrooms and courtyard/landscaping improvements. Many of these projects will be funded by the University as the owner of the House, but Chapter alumni will get the opportunity to help make these needed

improvements a reality, so stay tuned!

Brother Sloan and others from the Classes of 1975, 1976 and 1977 have already stepped forward with \$5,000 in honor of Brother Saltzman to be used towards the aforementioned improvements to the Chapter Room.

Your annual gift enhances the lifelong Penn Theta experience—not just for you, but for all of our alumni, and for many more to come.
Your donation:

- Supports Homecoming events and Alumni Day reunions, reconnecting you to old friends and brothers and introduces you to the current actives, as well as seeing first-hand the physical improvements to the chapter house that so many of you have also contributed to
- Funds our alumni communications program, keeping you informed of the latest news and information from the active chapter, the alumni association and each other

UNDERGRADUATES

January Rush Was a Huge Success



Students take in the 76ers/Raptors game.



The prospective pledges show their feelings about the Raptors.

Open rush was a great success! The Chapter held open houses Jan. 12-14 that resulted in a much higher yield than in previous years. In total, almost 200 Penn students joined the Chapter actives at the House for meet and greet, good conversation and pizza.

At least 60 potential new brothers were identified and discussed by the Chapter in

“all-hands” meetings held each night. Thanks to **Josh Harris '86** for hosting 24 actives and 15 prospects at the 76ers/Raptors game prior to bid date.

The Chapter expects to reach recruit at least 20 new brothers after submitting 24 bids to prospects on Jan. 21. The Chapter actives take pride in Penn Theta's diversity of brotherhood

and this new class will reflect that. Bids were extended to new members participating on D1 sporting teams, including rowing, basketball, squash, and golf; in academic programs ranging from English to Engineering to dual-degree programs; and coming to us from Pennsylvania to California to Vancouver, Canada, and all the way from Hong Kong.

LEGACY

Four Generations of SAE Brothers

The Sims family is well represented in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon family. **Sim K. Sims II**, who's an undergrad at Penn Theta, is the son, grandson and great-grandson of brothers at Oklahoma Kappa (University of Oklahoma). We recently spoke with Sim and his father Stephen about their SAE experiences.

Q: Why did you choose SAE?

Stephen: My father and grandfather were active in the Alumni Association at Oklahoma Kappa. I heard stories from them my entire life as to what it meant to them being a part of Oklahoma Kappa and the SAE tradition. I transferred to Oklahoma (during my) junior year and pledged. After a full summer of rush, it was the only group of guys I wanted to be around.

Sim: SAE has always been a part of my life, even from an early age. My dad, uncles, cousins and brother are SAEs. Once I got to college, I wanted to take part in all the fun and experiences I had heard of from my family members and see what SAE Penn Theta had to offer.

Q: What was a typical weeknight/weekend night like?

Stephen: Weeknights were for studying and weekends were 48 hours of fun. Between house parties and road trips, the weekend was full.

Sim: I had a different experience at Penn than some of my fraternity brothers, having played football. Weekdays/nights were for practice and studying, Saturdays were games and Saturday night was to meet up at Smokey Joes.



From left: Chandler Sims II, Sim K. Sims II, and Steve Sims

Q: What was your favorite memory from your time as an active?

Stephen: Initiation every year.

Sim: The scavenger hunt during new member education.

Q: How many members were in your class?

Stephen: 35

Sim: We were a pledge class of one, but had 22 brothers in our class.

Q: Stephen, how do you feel having your father and son as Brothers as well?

It is very special. Once I was initiated, their fraternity friends became mine and vice versa. A whole new world opened up to me. It's still the same to this day.

Q: Sim, how do you feel having your father as a Brother as well?

It is very special to be a member of the same fraternity as my father. I still remember when he came to Philadelphia to pin me during initiation.

Q: Stephen, what do you hope your son gained out of the chapter?

Experiencing the same feeling of friendship with his pledge brothers and those friendships from the house. They will last a lifetime.

Q: Sim, what did you gain out of the chapter?

Friendships that will last a lifetime and I learned things I would not have learned otherwise.

Brother Shanafelt Was a Two-Way Player and One of a Kind

In the fall of 1953, his senior year, **Brother Jack Shanafelt '54** attained All-American honors as a tackle on the Penn football team. Because players filled both offensive and defensive roles at that time, the All-American team was made up of only 11 players, making it more difficult to achieve such recognition.

This story first appeared in 2003. Brother Shanafelt died in 2013 at the age of 81. He was inducted into the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame the following year.

Why did you join Sigma Alpha Epsilon?

I was from Akron, Ohio, and there was a fellow from Canton, Ohio, who had a car, while I didn't. He found out that I was on the freshman football team on scholarship and offered to give me a ride home for the holidays. I said fine! He belonged to SAE, and I had a natural "in" through him. He was a year ahead of me and was already in the fraternity. I checked it out. It was unique at the university because it wasn't one of the "jock fraternities." I figured that I had spent enough time with the jocks with football practice, meetings and games, so I decided on a fraternity where I could be with people who had other ideas, ambitions and thoughts. It gave me a little balance.

What is your favorite memory of the fraternity?

One of the highlights was playing Georgia during my junior year. Miss America was from Georgia that year, and she was at the game on the Georgia side. There was a place at the end of the stadium where friends and family could wait for players after the game while we showered. When I went in there, Miss America was there, so I started chatting with her. I told her I was an SAE, which is an old Southern fraternity, and asked her if she would like to go up to the fraternity house. To



make a long story short, she agreed and her chaperone even let her come alone. Everyone had to come over and meet her. It was fun and one of those things you don't expect. Of course, I got ribbed and razed by my teammates. When we were going over game films, someone made the comment, "Where was Shanafelt on that one?" He was indicating that I had made a mistake on the play. But one of the other guys said, "Oh, that was when he was over on the sideline making his date with Miss America!" But that's part of the fun. During my senior year, strange as it may seem, Miss America was from Philadelphia, and she was dating one of the fellows on the team. She married him. It's funny to think that I've met two Miss Americas.

What kind of influence has the fraternity had on your life since graduation?

The fraternity gave us a large social structure. There were about 40 of us who lived there, and we were a big, happy family. It helped me to grow and get along with other people from all parts of the country. We all came from different backgrounds and experiences.

With whom do you stay in contact?

I stay in touch with **George Balbach '53**; he was a wrestler. When I was with Goodrich and was traveling all over the country, I would try to get in touch with people who might be there.

What other activities did you enjoy in college?

Football was my main extracurricular. I was

a tackle on the line, playing some offense and some defense each year. My senior year, I usually played all 60 minutes. I started every game I ever played in. There were articles about "Ironman Shanafelt," but I was fortunate that I was never injured badly enough to miss games. The worst thing that happened to me was that I broke my nose a

couple of times. I was lineman of the week a couple of times, and one time coach grabbed me and told me we were going up to New York to do a couple of sports shows, which was nice.

My junior year I was Honorable Mention All-American. I was All-American in my senior year. And at that time, all of the All-Americans were on the "Jackie Gleason Show." We were on one Saturday night. It was interesting because Gleason was quite a character and was in charge of everything on the show. He insisted that everything be authentic, which meant he wanted us all in our full uniforms, including cleats. It is not easy to jog on the stage in cleats. We were on after a group of dancers, so the floor was slippery. Believe it or not, nobody fell.

Did you live in the house? If so, who were your roommates? Tell us about a memorable time with them.

Yes, I lived in the house. I had one roommate, **Jim Cartwright '55**, and he was from Youngstown, Ohio. That worked out well for traveling home for the holidays. One time, we got a ride as far as the end of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and then we hitchhiked the rest of the way home. The fellow that picked us up was a salesman, and he had a brand new car. He said he was tired and was going to Detroit or somewhere. He slept in the back and had us drive the car. I guess that kind of thing was safer back then.

– continued on page 4

ALUMNI PROFILE

Brother Shanafelt

(continued from page 3)

Tell us about your family.

My wife is a nurse and does some work part time. We had two girls and a boy. My oldest daughter has some handicaps, so she still lives with us. But she is able to work part time. My son was active with Little League Baseball and, in college, ended up going to the national finals. He is now a doctor and has

an office here in town. He married a nurse. They have two children: Noah and Alexandria Marie. And they live about 10 blocks from us, which is great. My younger daughter became a physician's assistant. She married another P.A., and they moved to Oklahoma. She is expecting twins now.

Can you tell us about your career?

I went to work for B. F. Goodrich in their Industrial Products Division until Goodrich went out of business. That was kind of devastating. I went to work with a friend of mine, got an insurance and securities license, and sold life insurance, mutual funds and IRAs.

HISTORY ON THE HARDWOOD

Penn's Famed Palestra Now 90 Years Young

On New Year's Day 2017, one of the most famous athletic arenas in the country turned 90 years old. As luck would have it, that building sits on the University of Pennsylvania campus.

The Palestra first opened for business on Jan. 1, 1927. The Penn men's basketball team pulled off a 26-15 victory over Yale that day in front of 10,000 fans. Ninety years later, the Palestra is the most famous collegiate basketball arena in the world. It has hosted 52 NCAA basketball tournament

games, more than any other venue. It is home not only to Penn's teams, but also the famed Big 5 basketball series.

Since the Palestra opened, the Quakers men's basketball team has won or shared 25 Ivy League championships. The women's team has captured four league crowns, most recently last year.

Penn's wrestling team and women's volleyball squad also call the Palestra home. And the arena has hosted high school and professional games over the years. For a time, the Philadelphia 76ers played occasionally at the Palestra. In 2011, a group of NBA stars played an exhibition there before 8,000 fans during the NBA lockout.

But the Palestra has always been first and foremost about the college game: It's been called the "Cathedral of College Basketball." In 1998, Roy Williams brought his University of Kansas squad to West Philadelphia to play Penn because the Jayhawks' radio play-by-play man, Bob Davis, wanted to call a game there.



On Jan. 7, a Big Ten school played host at the famed building as Penn State beat Michigan State. Long-time Spartans coach Tom Izzo finally got to coach a game at the Palestra.

"They all tell me I've got to get to the Palestra," Izzo said during a press conference in 2014. "One of these years, I'm gonna be dumb enough to do it."

Charles Klauder, the architect who brought the building to life on South 33rd Street, probably

had no idea that his arena would become a mecca for hoop heads. But that's what it is today: Mention the Palestra to most any college basketball fan, and just watch the smile of recognition. As former Penn coach and current Temple coach Fran Dunphy put it, "When it's filled, and it's a crazy atmosphere, it's kind of indescribable. I don't think you can ever pinpoint in words what it's like. I think people have to experience it."

Do you remember going to games at the Palestra? Were you there during that magical 1978-79 season when the Quakers advanced to the Final Four? Or perhaps you were a student during Dunphy's glory years in the mid-90s, when Penn won or shared four straight Ivy League championships?

Whatever your recollections, we want to hear about them. Send us your memories of the Palestra by going to saepath.org. We may use your stories in future eLetters.