

UPCOMING EVENT

76ers vs. Orlando Magic

Looking for an opportunity to come back and spend some quality time with your brothers? You're in luck! One of Penn Theta's alumni and owners of the Philadelphia 76ers has donated 50 Club Box tickets to the November 7 basketball game against the Orlando Magic at 7 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center in South Philadelphia. Please contact **Steve Saltzman '85** (ssaltzman@Resourcerei.com) if you are interested and able to attend.

"AND THEN ..."

What's New With You?

Share your story with your brothers

There is good news out there – the stories of how your Greek experience helped you, taught you an important lesson, made you the man you are today, allowed you to meet the love of your life, gave you a connection which led you to your first job and professional journey ... and more. Please don't let these stories die without sharing them with those who really need to hear them. Send your news and photos to alumninews@affinityconnection.com!

See what fellow alumni have been up to on our website at www.saepath.org under the Alumni Profiles tab.



SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON PENNSYLVANIA

www.saepath.org

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania • October 2015

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

RIP SAE

What Will YOU Do When the Grim Reaper Comes Knocking?

It has been argued that fraternities today do not uphold the same ideals and beliefs as they once have. In recent years, the image of the American college fraternity has been severely scrutinized. Though, according to Nick Syrett, a professor at University of Northern Colorado and author of *The Company He Keeps: A History of White College Fraternities*, fraternities' early years were "a time when brothers were certainly no strangers to alcohol but when Greek life was also significantly different in many respects."

"Unlike the current moment, when research demonstrates that at most schools fraternity brothers' grades consistently rank below those of sorority women, unaffiliated men, and the university population more generally, antebellum fraternity men actually cared a good deal about their scholastic performance," Syrett says, "A fraternity man at Middlebury College in the 1850s boasted of the freshmen his chapter had recruited: 'We have five of the very first in class.'" At Brown, a DKE man wrote to his brothers elsewhere that not only had the valedictorian been a member, but that "[our chapter] still occupies the front rank at Brown both in scholarship and popularity." They were proud of these accomplishments; it was how one fraternity chapter demonstrated its superiority to another, a far cry from the means for

such evaluation today: size and luxury of house; attractiveness of members to (and success with) women; and athletic participation."

And he's right. A popular website, www.greekrank.com, gives visitors the chance to rate the fraternities they've visited in a number of categories—but academics and integrity are not among them. The available rating categories are: looks, popularity, classiness, involvement, social life and brotherhood.

"More than 125 recorded hazing deaths since the 1800's and 36 reported rapes at fraternities in just 2014 alone."

Today, many universities are cracking down after more than 125 recorded hazing deaths since the 1800's and 36 reported rapes at fraternities in just 2014 alone. SAE has been named the nation's "deadliest"

fraternity and had at least 10 deaths since 2006. This past year, SAE took a "historic" move and replaced the old system with a new True Gentleman Experience, which removed the pledging process completely. Members now become fully initiated within 96 hours of being granted a bid. Although, many alumni have expressed concern at the removal of several long-lasting traditions.

Are you committed to turning SAE around in a better direction, or is the glint of the guillotine in its future? Make your declaration at www.saepath.org.



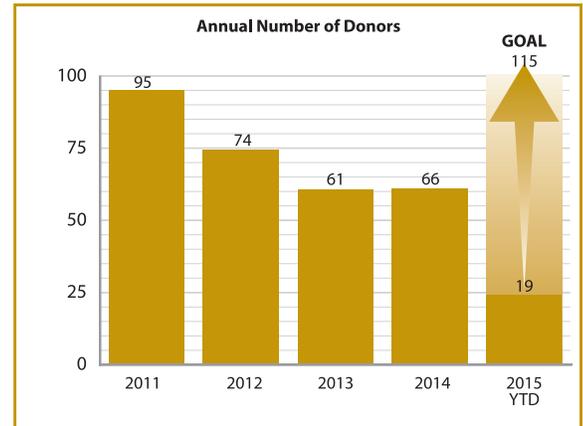
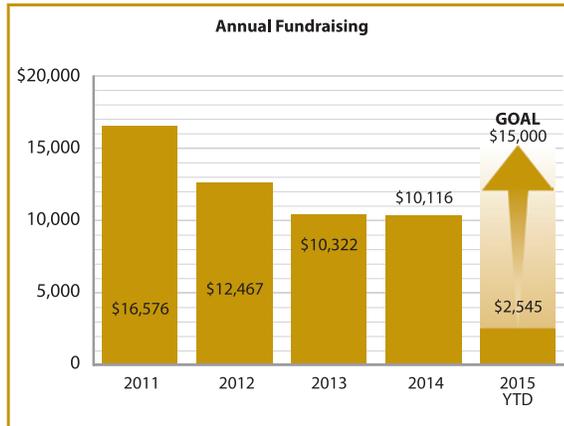
ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

The Future of SAE Relies On You

Help Us to Ensure a Bright Future for New Members

We ended our 2014-2015 giving year August 31 with a mere five more donors than the previous year. With a goal set at 115 donors, only 66 of you stepped up to the plate and contributed back to the brotherhood. Think back to your time in SAE, all the great memories, events and our beautiful chapter house. It is up to us to give back and ensure future generations the chance to have those same memories and experiences and to keep the tradition going.

As a thriving alumni association, more than 800 strong, we boast generations of brothers that have contributed to our rich history. We have collectively preserved traditions, enriched lives of young men and kept a thriving organization going strong at Penn for 114 years. You have a unique place in that history



and are asked to maintain your connections to pay it forward for future generations.

As the 2015-2016 giving year has already begun, we are keeping our goal of 115 donors and have the utmost faith that our brothers can reach (or even surpass) that goal. In the past month alone we have already received 19 donations for a total of \$2,195.

Thank you to those who have already made their contribution: **William Bain '47, Byron Tobin '60, John Meier '59, James Tito**

'59, Anthony Daponte '61, Todd Sloan '61, William Grant '49, Stanley Mayers '49, James Johnson '59, Joseph Murgio '60, Stephen Ambrose '76, James Waters '86, Eric Berger '87, Paul Griesmer '46, Frank Kohlenberger '47, Frank Carmone '62, Jeffrey Lenn '62, Steven Morris '86 and Daniel Povia '80.

Who will be the next to join them? Make your gift today by logging onto www.saepath.org or by calling 800-975-6699.

CHAPTER REPORT

Chapter Is In Good Standing

Thanks To Alumni Support, Actives Can Keep Striving For Excellence

By Tim Mason, Chapter President

ANDREW McDONOUGH



www.BePositive.org



Andrew McDonough inspired the Be Positive Foundation.

To kick off the 2015-2016 school year, we hosted our **Move In for B+**. As usual, we enlisted help from other fraternities to help move girls of all years into their new dormitories, apartments, or houses. In doing so, we were able to raise \$1,800 for the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation, which is \$700 more than last year!

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation honors the life of Andrew McDonough who battled leukemia, septic shock and complications of childhood cancer for 167 days before passing away on July 14, 2007 at the age of 14. Andrew's B+ blood type became his family's and friends' motto throughout his fight against childhood cancer—to "Be Positive." You can learn more or make a donation at bepositive.org.

Thanks to the support of our Alumni Association and their generous donations back to the chapter, we were able to have some significant renovations done to the house. We recently had new hardwood floors installed on the ground floor, got some new kitchen equipment (stove, fridge, etc.), got new couches for the Great Hall and Game Room and re-felted the pool table. We are more than grateful for the continued generous support of our Alumni Association. All 62 of us thank you.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Matthew Hanessian: Bitten by the Travel Bug

“Tackling new adventures and experiences is always nice to do with good friends, as you struggle through certain adversities together.”

Matthew Hanessian and some of our newest alums, Joe Haber, David Plaus, Danny Kanoff and Adam Baitch, decided to take advantage of their time off before entering the “real world” and enjoy their very own Eurotrip. Here’s what Matt had to say about his experience:

“Of the seven SAE’s that I lived with for my junior and senior years, four of them (plus myself) had enough time between graduation and our work start date to take a trip somewhere. We debated going to southeastern Asia for a bit, but ultimately landed on the classic post-grad Eurotrip. The five of us flew into Barcelona, then went to Budapest, Prague, Berlin, Amsterdam and Paris. While we were in Budapest, we met up with about 15 of our friends from ZBT at Penn and spent some time with them as well. Although some of us had been to some of the cities before with our families, going with friends was a totally new and exciting experience.

The trip was long (3 and a half weeks), and there wasn’t really time to be by yourself. Even though we’d lived together for three years at that point, we always had our own rooms that



we could retreat to if we needed some space. On the trip, there was no such thing, as we all shared one room for most of it. Although, tackling new adventures and experiences is always nice to do with good friends, as you struggle through certain adversities (language barriers, getting lost in a foreign city, etc.) together.

If I could do the trip over again, I probably would have shortened it a bit...I personally hit a wall when we went to Berlin (no pun intended) and chose to sleep in late most of those days instead of take in Berlin in its entirety.

My favorite part of the trip was probably a

three-way tie between going to a water park in Prague, going caving in Budapest and renting mopeds in Barcelona. Though none of us had ever rode mopeds before, we did so during our first day in Barcelona. We all picked it up fairly quickly (I was the only one who had trouble at first, and I may or may not have scuffed the bike up pretty badly), and we were able to see almost the entire city in a day. It was an overall great experience.

In Budapest, we went caving for the first time. Caving was a really cool experience that involved diving and crawling through unimaginably tight spaces deep underground in complete darkness. In fact, if you turned off your headlamp and stared into the darkness for long enough (about 20 minutes), you may start to hallucinate because your brain is so unused to not receiving any visual information from your eyes. Lastly, in Prague, we took a day off from sight-seeing and went to the largest waterpark in Europe (so they claimed). This was a great day to relax, have some fun and ride some surprisingly unsafe Czech water slides without a lifeguard in sight.”

ALUMNI PROFILE

Steve Wendel '84: I Ride For My Mom

“The sight of nearly 6,000 riders, thousands of volunteers and thousands of folks on the side of the road wishing us well made it all worth it.”

By Steve Wendel '84

For the 8th year, I rode in the Pan-Mass Challenge, a two-day, 192-mile bike ride across Massachusetts in support of cancer research. This year was the 36th Pan Mass Challenge and, if all goes well, the cumulative dollars raised by PMC riders will pass **\$500 million**, all of which goes to the effort to fight cancer.

I ride for my mom, who has a hereditary form of cancer (Waldenstroms), and for everyone who suffers from this disease. This year, I also rode for my mom’s younger sister, who passed away this May from cancer (Cancer sucks, by the way).

I ride to help Dana-Farber Cancer Institute find cures. This year, I can again speak personally on how the work of Dana-Farber helps as my mom has had this form of cancer for 11 years now. In 2011, the drug that had helped her for the past three years did not work, at all. The doctors at Dana-Farber found an experimental drug in Europe, put her on a chemo trial for the new drug...and it worked! It is but one example of how our efforts are helping to combat this and all forms of cancer.



Steve Wendel '84 and daughter Lane

On August 1 and 2, my team (Team Forza-G) and nearly 6,000 cyclists from across the US (and beyond) rode the 35th annual Pan-Massachusetts Challenge (PMC). Since 1980, the PMC has contributed more than \$450 million for cancer care and research at Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The PMC’s 2014 donation of \$43 million represents 100 percent of every dollar raised going towards this research and treatment. In 2014, Team Forza-G was comprised of 53 riders and with your generous support raised an astounding \$350,000.

The ride was really great – kind of hot towards the end on Saturday, but very nice on Sunday.

Other than pain in my neck (which is how some of you describe me!), my ride was fairly uneventful.

But, once again, the sight of nearly 6,000 riders, thousands of volunteers and thousands of folks on the side of the road wishing us well made it all worth it.



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- What Have Matt Hanessian & Steve Wendel Been Up To?
- Does SAE Face the Guillotine?

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Class of 2004 (L to R): Rob Graff, Jason Levy, Jonathan Marymor, Amit Bhattacharjee, Chris Caputo, Brett Smiley, Rob Kalfus and Ravi Bellur



There's something wrong with this picture! If you look closely, you'll notice that one brother in the front left got pantsed right before the photo was taken. They aren't your brothers if they don't pull the occasional prank, right?



May 12th, 2012. Brothers from the **class of 1992**. From left to right: Tom Peck, Dave Ferrero, Frank Schneider, Dave Kaplan, Andrew Hudson, Craig Neugeborn and Jeff Bernstein.



Class of 1989 at the Parade L-to-R: Rob Schmeltzer, Matt O'Connell, Mike Ault, Paul Schuster, Jeff Karp '88, Harry Fisher, Lee Shavel, Norm Brothers

Submit your own photos by sending them to alumninews@affinityconnection.com and they may be featured in upcoming publications.