

## UPCOMING EVENT

**Alumni Day**  
**Saturday, May 17**

Come back to the House on Alumni Day on May 17! Stay tuned for details.

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### President

**Steven Saltzman '85**  
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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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### Eminent Herald

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### Eminent Treasurer

Adam Baitch

Find a full list of chapter officers at [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org).

# PENNSYLVANIA

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

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania • February 2014

## ALUMNI REPORT

### Honoring Our Commitment to Be True Gentlemen *Your Participation Needed to Continue the Success of Penn Theta's Alumni Association*

*By Steve Saltzman '85*

As SAEs, we have all taken the oath to become True Gentlemen. Our conduct proceeds from good will, our deeds follow our words, and our thoughts are of the rights and feelings of others rather than our own.

As president of The Penn Theta Alumni Association, it is my duty to ensure that we all honor our commitment to SAE as we follow the path of The True Gentleman in our adult lives. I am calling on you to remember our creed and renew your participation with SAE as an alumnus.

First, plan to reunite with fellow SAEs this year. The best way to do so is at Alumni Day on May 17. We'll celebrate with an open house reception, and recognize all brothers that are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year (graduation years end in a '4 or a '9 – find a full list at [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org)). We also host several

other events throughout the year, like the popular "SAE Night at the Sixers" before last year's Homecoming. Stay tuned for more opportunities to reunite with Penn Thetas in 2014.

Perhaps the most critical way you can renew your participation is through your continued financial support. As our successful capital campaign winds down, we are counting on your continued yearly support through our annual fund. The annual fund ensures that we have a platform for consistent communication with alumni, can host and efficiently advertise Homecoming and Alumni Day events, and can support more brothers' attendance at SAE's annual Leadership School. We rely on alumni financial support year after year to fund these operations. See inside for how to make your annual fund gift.

## SAE EVENTS

### Joshua J. Harris Great Hall Unveiled at Homecoming 2013 Celebration

On November 9, Penn Theta organized the largest and most elaborate Homecoming event in recent history. More than 30 alumni returned to celebrate the chapter raising nearly \$400,000 for capital improvements to the chapter house. The Joshua J. Harris Great Hall was inaugurated in honor of **Josh Harris '86**, the campaign's top donor. A plaque was also installed at the house to permanently recognize all campaign contributors.



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Renovations Begin at Penn Theta

#### Alumni Campaign Donations Allow for Repair of Butler's Pantry and Other Needed Improvement Projects

Thanks to overwhelming support of our capital campaign, which raised \$400,000, work has begun to make critically necessary repairs at the Penn Theta chapter house. Our top donors were recognized at Homecoming 2013 and will become a permanent part of the house through a donor's plaque that was installed.

Work began last summer, with the first project being the repair to the Butler's Pantry



(which was about to collapse!). Pictured here is **Josh Richardson**, Wharton class of 2016, in the newly-renovated Butler's Pantry.

There's still time to make a gift or pledge to the capital campaign to help fund our remaining projects. Go to [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org) to learn more.

#### Renovation Projects Supported by Your Gifts:

- Repair to the Butler Pantry (which was about to collapse) – **Project Complete!**
- Repair of the foyer floor (which almost collapsed)
- Fixing the brick façade and landscaping
- Repair the fire escape to bring it up to code
- A major overhaul of the electrical system (also to bring it up to code)
- Refurbishment of the heating systems
- Minor items (carpet, plumbing)

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Being Positive: Brothers Bond Together to Help Others

#### Penn Theta Raises \$2,500 to Benefit Pediatric Cancer Foundation, Connects with Local School Children and Feeds the Hungry

Penn Theta kicked off the spring semester strong, following a banner fall. The chapter recruited 21 new members, six of whom are varsity athletes. Find a list of their names, majors and hometowns at [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org).

Brothers spent the fall increasing SAE's presence on campus. We started in August, offering a move-in service for returning students and collected optional donations. More than 70 brothers helped move 80 students and raised \$2,500 for the B+ Foundation, an organization that awards research grants and assistance to families fighting pediatric cancer. Through this foundation, we adopted an honorary brother, Antonio, a seven-year-old boy who is battling brain cancer. Additional

philanthropy events included collecting 75 pounds of canned food during Parents' Weekend to benefit Philabundance, the Philadelphia region's largest food bank and hunger relief organization, and our annual Haunted House for more than 200 West Philadelphia elementary school students.

This spring, the chapter is launching an academic mentorship program for older brothers to offer coursework support, schedule planning and career advice to younger brothers and new members. We received an award from Sigma Alpha Epsilon for academic achievement.

Following our largest Homecoming celebration in recent memory, we look forward



*The 2013 annual Haunted House welcomed more than 200 West Philadelphia elementary school children.*

to reconnecting with more alumni in 2014. Please plan to join us for Alumni Day on May 17.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY THE NUMBERS

### Counting On Your Involvement to Keep Our Database Clean

The Penn Theta Alumni Association works in partnership with a third-party alumni relations firm to maintain a clean database of our brothers to ensure we're reaching as many alumni as possible through our print and electronic communications.

As brothers move and change jobs, we sometimes lose touch of their current mail-

ing and email addresses. A snapshot of our database to date is to the right, and you can visit [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org) to view full lists of our lost brothers and help us to update their contact information (or update your own if you haven't been receiving our email publications).

Our database is used solely for Penn Theta communications and will never be traded or sold.

<b>*Total alumni:</b>	1,972
<b>Valid mailing addresses:</b>	928
<b>Valid email addresses:</b>	555
<i>(60% of living alumni)</i>	
<b>Lost brothers:</b>	191
<i>(no current mailing list on file)</i>	
<b>All-time annual fund donors:</b>	469
<i>(24% of all alumni)</i>	

*\*Includes 804 deceased*

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### John McConnell '62

(783-B Heritage Village, Southbury, CT 06488; purringtonmcconnell@verizon.net) I may be one of the first from the Classes of 1961-1962 to move into a retirement community. Except I'm still trying to work. We moved in May, took a rental, put almost everything in storage, and are busy renovating



John McConnell '62

the unit we bought. May I please tell you... living on one level is like getting a new life. My Etchells (it's a boat) sat in a cornfield in Orange, Conn. until the first week of August, when I finally got some off time and we hit the water for the YRA of LIS Championships. We finished 4th out of 10 boats, not bad considering the competition. This photo is yours truly running races for the Ideal 18 North American Championship (42 boats).

### Shep Abbott '65

(30 Leverett St., Gloucester, MA 01930; shepabbott@yahoo.com) I recently completed a one-hour documentary, "Memoir," about my years as a filmmaker in the Serengeti Mara ecosystem, producing films on cheetah, leopard and other species as well as ethnographic film on the Maasai People. I'm presently marketing a dramatic movie

screenplay called "The Trouble with Elephants" about the terrible contemporary slaughter of the African elephant. I'm also continuing many years of work on the novel "The Dogboy" while painting a large wall mural of the harbor community of Gloucester, Mass. I am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church and belong to the committee on Social Justice. In my spare time I enjoy playing with my black lab, Sweetie.



Shep Abbott '65

### Matt Deitch '09

(matt.deitch@gmail.com) I'm at Wharton, getting my MBA, and planning to summer with BCG in Chicago. SAE has been responsible for the closest ties I have from college, to men who continue to be some of the best, most talented people I know.

**Calling all SAEs from the '70s, '80s and '90s! We missed hearing from you for this issue of the newsletter. Submit your news, stories and photos for our next issue at [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org).**

## ALUMNI REUNION

### SAE Bonds Form the Basis for Continuous Friendships *The Best Friends Don't Necessarily Need to Be From Your Graduating Class*

Thank you to **Richard Steinkamp '63** for submitting this photo and story. Pictured (L to R) are **Eric Holzapfel '58**, **Jose Espino '63**, **Michael Kelly '59** and Richard Steinkamp celebrating Jose and Michael's birthdays.

How did these brothers from different classes come to be such good friends, remaining close 50+ years after graduation?

Richard explains: "We knew the earlier brothers who graduated in the classes of '52-'59, with which my class did not overlap in SAE, largely because of **Russ Heuer '55** (deceased). Russ was always promoting the earlier classes to attend Homecoming, and so there were many opportunities for us to get to know each other over my class undergraduate years. And Jose always was on campus, having

an extended career. He was another link to the earlier classes.

Then, in 2007, the graduating classes '58-'64 organized a collective reunion in South Carolina. As a result, I came to know that Jose, Erich and Michael lived in the DC area and that the three of them regularly had lunch together. They took me into their group. In 2009, Michael and I realized that each of us was vacationing in Italy, and we agreed to overlap for part of our trip so our wives could attend a painting

school together near Florence.

The undergraduate SAE bond formed the basis for the continuing and continuous friendship between and among the other three over the years, and my interconnection was enough to get me in!"



## UNDERGRADUATE RECOGNITION

### SAE Seniors Inducted into Friars Society

Two SAE seniors were inducted into Friars Senior Society, an organization dating back to 1901 that recognizes student leaders on campus.

#### **Dylan Petro '14**

**Hometown:** Galloway, NJ

**Major:** PPE

#### **Activities & Honors:**

- VP of Finance and Marketing Director, Class Board 2014
- Former Treasurer, Social Chair and Philanthropy Chair of SAE
- Tour Guide, Kite and Key
- Lab Consultant, Vitale Digital Media
- Dean's List (2012-2013)



Dylan Petro '14

#### **Daniel Riband '14**

**Hometown:** Laussane, Switzerland

**Major:** International Relations

#### **Activities & Honors:**

- President, SAE
- Member, One in Four
- Director of Marketing and Community Outreach, UTV
- Under Secretary General Operations, Ivy League Model United Nations Conference
- Thematic Chair, International Relations Undergraduate Student Association
- Assistant Layout Editor, SIR Journal of International Relations
- Riepe Mentors Program



Daniel Riband '14

Stay tuned to [www.saepath.org](http://www.saepath.org) for stories of many more SAE brothers who have been recognized for their achievements this academic year.

## UNDERGRADUATE Q&A

### "Our Brotherhood is Our Biggest Asset"

#### **Charles Wetherbee Learns Life Lessons and Character-Developing Values at SAE's 2013 Leadership School**

Charles Wetherbee attended the 78<sup>th</sup> John O. Moseley Leadership School last summer, which was held at sea after departing from the Port of Miami. Charles benefitted from three full days of workshops, group discussions, and speaker events focused around the topic of Leadership for Life, which stresses the importance of staying involved with SAE as an alumnus. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore Nassau during the trip, which Charles says was a blast for the 800 brothers in attendance.



Charles Wetherbee

#### **In what ways did the Leadership School prepare you to better lead SAE?**

The most meaningful was the reinforcement that our chapter at Pennsylvania is just one of several hundred chapters around the country that share a common set of traditions and values despite very different campus environments. More than just reading about it in the *Phoenix*, meeting and interacting

with brothers from each of our 228 chapters encouraged me to lead our chapter not just for our current undergraduates, but for our alumni and brothers from other chapters as well so that SAE may endure for years to come. Every chapter has experiences that others can learn from and incorporate to improve their daily operations, whether in the areas of social, philanthropy, academic, or alumni engagement.

#### **In what ways did Leadership School prepare you for life outside of SAE?**

One of the best things about Leadership School is the ability to make lasting connections with brothers from around the country. Many sessions stressed the importance of expanding your network and building bonds, both professionally and personally. I try to act on this advice every day, be it with SAEs, classmates, colleagues, or friends.

#### **Why is it important that alumni support the chapter's efforts to send undergraduate brothers to Leadership School on a continuous basis?**

I would not have been able to attend

Leadership School without our generous alumni, and I would like to express my appreciation for their support. On our campuses, it is easy to forget that we are just a small piece of a national brotherhood, but the ability to see the bigger picture at Leadership School inspires us to be more active brothers and, in a few years, alumni. The outstanding alumni speakers and Leadership School staff exposed many brothers in attendance to the lifelong value of fraternity for the first time. Our experience at Leadership School inspired many of us to give back by becoming members of the Phi Alpha Club, an important first step in what I am confident will be a lasting tradition of giving back to our fraternity.

#### **What is the #1 thing you learned from Leadership School?**

Our brotherhood is our biggest asset. We are fortunate to be able to learn from the experiences of the True Gentlemen who have come before us, and we are charged with the responsibility of challenging future generations of brothers so that our fraternity may continue to grow stronger.