



Engineering Alumni Society

May 2013

Submitted by Farnia Fresnel, President

Over the 2012-2013 academic year, the Penn Engineering Alumni Society (EAS) has been actively supported by upwards of 30 members who attended 9 monthly meetings on campus and via teleconference. This year, the EAS congratulates Carl Clyde (VP), Jeannine Carr (Director), Rich Cisek (Director), Harris Romanoff (Past President), Farnia Fresnel (President), and Matt Quale (Secretary), Dane Carswell (Director) as they celebrate their 30th, 20th, 15th, and 10th class reunions respectively.

In addition to an active group of former leadership and current executive leadership, the EAS is supported by 12 dedicated Directors who chair committees, 8 Associate Directors, and a geographically diverse group of alumni at large. The active board is represented by alumni from the classes of 1957 through 2008.

The goals of the EAS are to:

1. Serve as a conduit to connect Penn Engineering Alumni to one another
2. Strengthen the bond between Penn Engineering Alumni and the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS)
3. Connect undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students to Alumni

The 2012-2013 year was marked by several exciting events that furthered these goals. Partnerships that were seeded last year with the Engineering Deans Advisory Board (EDAB) and the Masters Deans Advisory Board have yielded additional programming for our affected community to interact. To that end, we have concluded another incredibly successful year. Highlights of custom programming to meet the aforementioned goals are below:

1. *Connecting* → *Alumni : Alumni*

Benefits of Volunteerism

Engineering alumni volunteered greater than 1300 hours to board and university sponsored events. Annually, SEAS recognizes this effort through various volunteer appreciation events. This year, Dean Eduardo Glandt led the EAS on a private tour of the 78,000 sq. ft. Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology in early 2013. This tour marked a milestone in the completion of the facility as it was the first time that a visiting group was not required to wear hard hats in the building. Alumni were later treated to a Quaker basketball game against Cornell. While that game resulted in a 2 point loss, alumni were welcomed back to the university sponsored Volunteer Appreciation weekend and were able to experience a major upset to Ivy basketball when the Quakers trounced Harvard in a 75-72 win.

Social Media

The EAS Online team maintains current content, photos, and video on the Penn Engineering website, Wiki page, and social media spaces. More and more alumni and students are leveraging the social capital of the extended SEAS engineering community through our social media groups. Over the past year, the EAS LinkedIn community has experienced a 64% growth in membership. The EAS is proud to announce that our current membership now exceeds 2600!

The Personal Touch

Named business cards, detailed with website, LinkedIn, and Facebook contact information, have equipped the EAS with a simple tool to maintain connection with alumni that we encounter outside of our traditional programming. These cards have created a more personal touch within our larger community and we look forward to experiencing continued benefits of that personal approach to alumni : alumni relations.



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The alumni liaison committee continues to seek creative ways to manage and engage our growing alumni population in meaningful ways. The committee has recognized that alumni can serve from a distance through local Engineering Alumni events. The Alumni worldwide committee will host the first New York City based Engineering Alumni Mixer on June 11.

Celebrations of Merit

While we know that our alumni are dynamic, we also enjoy when the university says so as well. Harve Hnatiuk (EE'74) received the 2012 Alumni Award of Merit at the Awards Gala on October 26, 2012. Farnia Fresnel (SSE'98) will receive the 2013 Young Alumni Award of Merit on November 8, 2013.

The EAS revels in the excitement of academic year end when we are able to recognize a distinguished alumnus with the D. Robert Yarnall Award of Excellence. This year Dr. John Casani, EE'55, Hon'92, was awarded for his lifetime contributions to the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. During his acceptance speech, Dr. Casani captivated the audience as he recounted his days at Penn. He noted that while he began his journey in the College of Arts and Sciences, he ended it in Engineering.

2. Connecting → Alumni : PENN

Reconnecting with Campus

Homecoming and alumni weekends serve as the most significant alumni : university goalposts of the year. This year during homecoming, we saw upwards of 125 alumni and guests return to the Levine Hall lobby for the annual post game reception. During alumni weekend, the EAS is prepared to present greater than \$1Million to President Amy Gutmann on behalf of the broader alumni community's contributions to the Annual Giving campaign.

Keeping Current in Engineering

A new lecture event and an established speaker series provided an opportunity for our alumni to experience life as a current student, hear current research, and assess industry impact from well renowned professors including:

- Dr. Daniel Lee – ESE 111 Electric, Computer, and Systems Engineering Lecture
- Associate Professor Jennifer Lukes, Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics – Research focus in thermal sciences, energy conversion, and nanomaterials
- Dr. Thomas Cassel, Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics – Research focus in engineering entrepreneurship and economics
- Dr. Kenneth Foster, Bioengineering – Research focus in biomedical applications, electromagnetics, and safety

We Keep on Getting Better

Recognizing the importance of reflection on and appreciation for each success, the EAS will leverage the newly minted EAS Operations guide to conduct a lessons learned as we prepare for a transition in leadership.

3. Connecting → Alumni : Students

In a dual approach to reaching engineering students, the EAS kicked off the undergraduate mentoring program in January and will deliver a congratulatory note to graduating students in May.



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February was quite busy for the board. With the recognition of National Engineers Week (February 17-23), the board partnered with students to host several, major themed dinners to facilitate dialog with students about current topics impacting their fields. The dinners were well attended and served as a solid new addition to EAS programming.

We know that Penn Engineering students are innovators. To support innovation and entrepreneurial pursuits, the EAS hosted a Patent Presentation with a panel of senior patent professionals. Upwards of 40 students attended the event and learned the ins and outs of protecting innovation.

Graduate & PhD Students

Our graduate and PhD students often have different concerns in interacting with alumni. Therefore, we partnered with Alumni Relations and the Masters Dean Advisory Board to host the 3rd Annual Graduate Student Mixer this year. It was attended by a growing number of students and alumni. We were excited that the conversations were so enlightening that, by the end of the night, the final group had to be reminded that the event had concluded!

A much anticipated Graduate Student BBQ is on the horizon to wrap up the academic year. This year, the BBQ, which is traditionally attended by greater than 300 graduate and PhD students, will be held on July 18.

MORE Celebrations of Merit

Approximately 18 engineering design presentations were demonstrated by Penn Engineering students during the annual Senior Design Competition. Upwards of 30 judges participated and awarded three top prizes totaling \$1400 and an additional three honorable mention awards. We were pleased to invite several students from local schools to observe the presentations as well.

The top prizes were awarded to

1. **First Prize: Tactile Feedback for Monopolar Electrocautery in Minimally Invasive Surgery**
Zach Shurden, Anna Brzezinski, Brian Horwich, Nicki Blumenfeld
Department of Bioengineering
 2. **Second Prize: Titan: A Powered Upper Body Exoskeleton**
Elizabeth Beattie, Nicholas McGill, Nicholas Parrotta, Nikolay Vladimirov
Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics
 3. **Third Prize: H.E.R.A.L.D. (Hybrid Exploration Robot for Air and Land Deployment)**
Lauren Davis, Michael Kofron, Stella Latscha, Gabrielle Merritt, Anthony Stroffolino
Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics
- **Honorable Mention: inVigo™**
Jason Gui, Drew Karabinos, Jonathan Kern, R. Blake Winston
Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics
 - **Honorable Mention: ROTOrouter**
Albert Kwon, Perk Lim, Yuchen Pan, Kaiyu Zhang
Advisors: Andre DeHon and Boon Thau Loo
Departments of Computer and Information Science and Electrical and Systems Engineering
 - **Honorable Mention: Highly Aligned Nanowires for Electronic Memory Device Applications**
Karthik Kumar

This year, the EAS also presented the **E. Stuart Eichert, Jr. Award** to a student who exemplified the characteristics of selfless service to the University and the Community.



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Furthermore, members of our committed EAS leadership also sponsored several student awards.

- Past President Walter Korn presented the **Walter Korn Award** to an outstanding senior in the Moore School who will be continuing on at the Moore School for a graduate degree.
- Associate Director Dawn Becket presented the **Dawn and Welton Becket Digital Media Design Achievement Award** to a DMD Senior who exemplified the ideals of the DMD program through outstanding achievement, citizenship, and mentoring.

The 2012-2013 Executive EAS Board included representation from SEAS classes from 1961 to 2003:

- President – Farnia Fresnel, SSE
- Vice President – Hank Guckes, EE, MSEE
- Vice President – Carl Clyde, EE
- Vice President - Seville Mannickarottu, EE
- Secretary – Matt Quale, CBE
- Treasurer – Ernest Churchill, MSE