



Penn Engineering

November 2013 Engineering Alumni Society Report

The Penn Engineering Alumni Society (EAS) is very pleased to report that an engineering alumnus will again be lauded for achievement and university service. Past Board President, Farnia Fresnel (Eng'98) will be presented with the Young Alumni Award at the Alumni Awards Gala on November 8th.

The core tenants of the EAS include:

- Fostering networking between the undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students and alumni
- Encouraging networking to connect Penn Engineering Alumni to one another
- Reinforcing the bond between Penn Engineering Alumni and the School of Engineering and Applied Science

To execute on these important goals, the EAS is organized into a dedicated 6 person executive leadership board, upwards of 8 Past Presidents, 12 Directors, and 6 Associate Directors who attend 9 monthly meetings on campus. Through the powerful support from the Engineering Development office and an extended group of engaged, globally diverse engineering alumni, the 17 board committees are able to produce and promote programming in support of these goals.

What is New?

Expanding on the First-year Mentoring success - A new program focused on second-year students is being introduced in connection with the Career Services Office. This year the Board and Career Services are introducing a one-day Externship program that seeks to match Second-year students with employers willing to host one or more students for a one-day site visit during a semester break. The intent is to help the students broaden their understanding of potential careers and each will be asked to write a blog entry sharing their experience with other students.

Moving beyond the obvious – The board decided this year to expand the focus of the “Career Panels” committee to look more broadly at “Student Engagement”. This has already been demonstrated with the recent Advancing Women in Engineering Faculty & Alumni Tea event that was expanded this year to include a number of enthusiastic alumni thanks to the help of an Associate Director on the Board.

Enriching the alumni experience – As the Engineering Alumni Community continues to get more engaged through things like social media, we are learning how to adapt to having enthusiastic society members in other regions. Building on a successful social event in New York City bringing together alumni, two of our Board members are already planning a second event in the near future.

What Keeps on Getting Better?

While it is still early in the academic year, the Engineering Alumni Society has been quite busy with annual planning and less formal events on campus. A brief summary of our activities plan is below:

Programming for Students

- Several members of the EAS supported the annual Engineering Career Awareness Day (ECAD) and fall recruiting efforts through their firms and as volunteers for the engineering mock interviews.
- The EAS is working with student organizations to support events tied to the student majors throughout the academic year.

Submitted by Matthew Quale, President

<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni/alumnisociety>



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- The EAS will continue to mentor undergraduate students. This relationship, formed early in the academic cycle, encourages students to leverage alumni as a resource and exposes them to the wide variety of career options available to Penn Engineers. As mentioned above, this is also being expanded to the new Second-year Externship program.
- Graduate students are on campus for a significantly more concentrated period of time. The brevity of their time on campus allows for fewer opportunities to interact. Therefore, the board is planning to partner with Alumni Relations to hold the 4th Annual Graduate/Alumni mixer in the spring.
- The EAS has invited practicing professional engineers to speak to students about the benefits of pursuing your PE license. The presentation is scheduled for November 12th.
- Annually the Senior design presentation allows the EAS to recognize and award teams of the brightest SEAS students. Alumni are also invited to visit campus to serve as judges and witness the current research that is being championed at Penn.
- Membership in the EAS is free and automatically extended to all Penn Engineering graduates post-graduation. Once again, the EAS will issue a congratulatory note to the graduating students and encourage them to get involved.
- The graduate engineering student BBQ will be held in July 2013 for upwards of 400+ graduate and PhD level students.

Programming for Engineering Alumni

- The reach of EAS is most clearly quantified through a quick check on our extended membership base. In just the past year, the Linked In membership has once again grown more than 40% to almost 3000 members! EAS Facebook membership has also grown to over 300 members in the past year.
- A dedicated team continues to update & maintain the EAS website and Penn Engineering Wiki Page with photographs, video, and other content relevant to the alumni community.
- In order to stay connected with the latest happenings in the engineering space, the EAS invites university faculty and administrators to hold short lectures for the board. Iraj Zandi, Professor Emeritus, ESE, recently spoke to the board and several other speakers are planned over the next few months.
- The engineering school was proud to publicly dedicate the Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology on October 4th, 2013. Tours for this amazing new facility during Homecoming weekend area already overbooked.

Programming for Alumni & PENN

- On the 8th of November, the EAS will host a Homecoming Post Game reception. Based on existing registrations, an anticipated 100 - 125 alumni and guests will gather in the Levine Lobby to celebrate our anticipated victory.
- For the second year now, Penn Engineering Alumni will be invited back to campus to sit in on a lecture prior to the November Board Meeting. We promise there will NOT be a test at the end of the lecture, but based on feedback from last year's class, the alumni will all leave wide-eyed and motivated by what is happening today at Penn.
- During Alumni weekend, the EAS gathers in the Engineering tent on Hill field to present the annual giving proceeds to President Amy Gutmann.
- Lastly, the D. Robert Yarnall Award presents an opportunity for the board to recognize alumni who have excelled in their chosen field and as an alumnus through their relationship with the university. The submissions for the prestigious D. Robert Yarnall Award have been accepted and are currently under evaluation. We look forward to awarding a distinguished alumnus with the award in the spring.

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The 2013-2014 Executive EAS Board includes representation from SEAS classes from 1958 to 2004:

- President – Matt Quale, CBE
- Vice President – Ernest Churchville, MSE
- Vice President – Carl Clyde, EE
- Vice President – Stan Warchaizer, EE
- Secretary – Seville Mannickarottu, EE
- Treasurer – Hank Guckes, EE