

Over the 2011-2012 academic year, the Penn Engineering Alumni Society (EAS) has been actively supported by upwards of 30 members who attend 7 monthly meetings on campus and via teleconference from London, China, and the US states including New York and California. This year, the EAS joins three past presidents, Walter Korn, Eric Benshetler, and Tim Carlsen in celebrating their 55th, 35th, and 20th class reunions respectively. In addition to an active group of former leadership and current executive leadership, the EAS is supported by 10 dedicated Directors who chair committees, 13 Associate Directors, and a geographically diverse group of alumni at large.

The goals of the EAS are to serve as a conduit to connect Penn Engineering Alumni to one another, to strengthen the bond between Penn Engineering Alumni and the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), and to connect undergraduate, graduate, and PhD students to Alumni.

Since the early fall, the Engineering Alumni Society has embarked on a number of new and repeat initiatives that were exceptionally well attended. Growing partnerships with the Penn Club of Philadelphia, the Engineering Deans Advisory Board (EDAB), and the Graduate Engineering Deans Advisory Board have effectively forged relationships that the board anticipates will continue to yield interesting and relevant programming for a broader base of Penn Engineering Alumni.

This year was marked by several firsts for the EAS. Some of those "first" highlights are below:

- **First EDAB/ Alumni Mixer:** A select group of students were identified to attend the EDAB initiated event. There was nearly a 2:1 ratio between students and alumni which allowed for optimal interaction.
- **First Alumni Resource Fair:** The EAS was also invited to participate in the first Alumni Resource Fair hosted in the Hall of Flags at Houston Hall. Not only did this serve as an opportunity to connect with a new student base, but upwards of 15 students expressed interest in continuing to stay connected with Penn Engineering post-graduation.
- **Alumni Liaison Committee:** The newly minted Alumni Liaison committee was given the charter of assessing the interests of the Alumni at Large (AAL) and proactively managing the growing list of members. To date, this committee has distributed a membership interest survey and directly contacted approximately 24 EAS AAL.
- **New Program Review:** The EAS has initiated a new year-end program review to better tailor new and existing programming to the changing needs of the growing, geographically dispersed alumni community.

Additional programming for 2011-2012 was as follows:

Programming for Alumni & PENN

- The EAS hosts receptions during Homecoming and Alumni weekends and will present greater than \$1Million to President Amy Gutmann from the Annual Giving campaign during Alumni Weekend.
- As an extension to Homecoming weekend, the EAS partnered with the Penn Club of Philadelphia for a special lecture by Professor Daniel Lee on Humanoid Robots and artificial intelligence. Members of the UPennalizers, Robocup soccer champions, also participated in the lecture.
- This year, M&T graduate, entrepreneur, and co-founder of Register.com, Richard Forman was presented with the D. Robert Yarnall Award of Excellence. Upon acceptance, Richard truly inspired the audience of SEAS senior award winners and their families with his candor and surprised them with a display of one of his earliest entrepreneurial ventures as a Penn student.

Programming for Students

- EAS hosted a professional engineering licensure seminar to help prepare those students interested in pursuing careers in engineering for the PE examination.
- Eighteen design presentations by seniors across Penn Engineering who led their departmental competitions were reviewed at the annual Senior Design competition. Thirty four judges participated and awarded three top prizes totaling \$1400 and an additional three honorable mention awards.
- This year the EAS continued to volunteer as student mentors and to volunteer for a variety of programming initiated by career services including "Tweeting for a Day". This initiative takes a closer look at the day in the life of an Alumnus. Matt Quale, EAS Board Secretary and former chair of the mentoring program, tweeted details of his role as a Business Development Manager at The Dow Chemical Company.
- Membership in the EAS is free and automatically extended to all Penn Engineering graduates post-graduation. Once again, the EAS issued a congratulatory note to the graduating students encouraging them to get involved.
- The graduate engineering student BBQ will be held in July 2012. Annually, this BBQ is attended by greater than 300 masters' level students.

Programming for Engineering Alumni

- Creative content distribution has resulted in the EAS 'at large' community experiencing a 66% growth in membership in the social networking spaces. Current membership in the EAS LinkedIn community recently exceeded 1600.
- 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.
- The speaker series has been one of the most welcome additions to the monthly board meetings. It provides an opportunity to have a first look at technology and research being driven by engineering and/or local Penn leaders. This year, speakers included Dr. Katherine Kuchenbecker, Assistant Professor of Innovation, and George Pappas, Deputy Dean of Research.
- Alumni volunteer over 1200 hours to board and university sponsored events. Annually, alumni volunteers are recognized and treated to a Quaker basketball game at the Palestra. In February, the Volunteer Appreciation evening was particularly rewarding when the Penn Quakers beat Columbia in a nail biting overtime finish.

The 2011-2012 Executive EAS Board included representation from SEAS classes from 1961 to 2003:

- President – Farnia Fresnel, SSE
- Vice President – Hank Guckes, EE, MSEE
- Vice President – Dane Carswell, MEAM
- Secretary – Matt Quale, CBE
- Treasurer – Ernest Churchill, MSE