



SEAS Alumni Society Board of Directors  
Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2006  
6:00PM, Room 307 Levine Hall

AGENDA

- I. President's Welcome, Remarks and Update.....T. Carlsen
- II. Dean's Remarks..... E. Glandt
- III. Approval of November 28, 2005 Meeting Minutes.....T. Carlsen
- IV. Engineering Board Appreciation Night -2/25/06 (tentative).....E. Davis
- V. Mentoring Program Update.....Nancy H / Jeannine C.
- VI. Website update.....R. Miller
- VII. Senior Design Competition...Wednesday, 4/26/06.....W. Korn
- VIII. Alumni Weekend...5/12/06-5/14/06.....H. Romanoff
- IX. Student Group Participation with Board.....J. Lau / H. Romanoff
- X. Development Office Report.....G. Hain
- XI. Career Services Report..... R. Pyne
- XII. Around the Table..... All
- XIII. Adjournment

- NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 27, 2006 \*



## Minutes of the Engineering Alumni Society Board of Directors

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104

[www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/alumni)

Monthly Meeting: Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 in 307 Levine Hall

### Attendees:

Alan Schultz	Ellie Davis	Jason Bethala	Nancy Harris
Brad Abrams	Eric Benshetler*	Jeannine Carr*	Robert Berkovits
Carl Clyde	Ernest Churchville*	Jim Brennan	Russ Miller
Craig Schorr*	Farnia Fresnal*	Lauren Berryman	Tim Carlsen
Dick Mulford	George Hain	Liz Stanley	Walt Korn
Dick Fallows*	Harris Romanoff	Michael Ostrow	

\* Present via teleconference

### President's Welcome

President Tim Carlsen called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and welcomed everyone. Tim introduced Liz Stanley, to the board. Liz will represent the Career Services office during Rosette's recovery.

### Approval of the November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were unanimously approved without modification.

### **Engineering Board Appreciation Night 02/04/2006**

Ellie announced that the annual Engineering Board Appreciation night would be held on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. The evening will consist of a dinner with Dean Glandt followed by the Penn vs. Yale basketball game. Tim thanked Ellie and the development office for their organization and support of the event.



## **Mentoring**

Liz updated the board on the SEAS mentoring program. 60 students requested mentors this year, up from 29 in 2005 and 33 in 2004. The program's booth at the career day fair contributed to the increase in student participants. To date, 19 students were unmatched. However, there are over 80 unmatched mentor volunteers in the database and additional recruiting (via 5-year and 10-year career surveys would also occur).

Overall, Liz said she was pleased with the program's progress but would like to build upon the current program to match more students more quickly next year. Tim agreed that matching students sooner would be beneficial.

Harris suggested mentors and students declare a "secondary" career line next year in order to build additional flexibility into the matching process.

## **Website Update/Status**

Russ discussed several recent improvements to the board's website, including:

- Updated the "next EAS event" link (to reflect the Senior Design Competition)
- Renamed the "SEAS Alumni Society Events" link to "Alumni Society Events"
- Renamed the "Be An Alumni Volunteer" link to "Join the Alumni Board"
- Updated Homecoming as a "past" event
- Added Homecoming pictures
- Added a link to the Homecoming picture gallery
- Updated the "Meet the Board" page with new biographies, pictures, and past president profiles

Russ suggested the board recommend a good graphic to include on the page featuring the upcoming senior design competition. Walt suggested past event photos could be made available. Harris suggested a competition logo might strengthen its brand image.

Another improvement Russ would like to do is upgrade the mentoring page



## **Senior Design Competition, Wed 04/26/2006**

Walt addressed a broad range of topics on the senior design competition.

The competition sub-committee held a conference call on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to review the 2005 competition and address potential improvements. The sub-committee agreed that judging should remain focused on presentation quality - not the technical aspects of the project. Judges will continue to use the new 1-10 score scale. The format for submitting scores will be the same as 2005; each judge will use a consolidated score sheet.

Walt asked the board to review the prizes for the competition. In past years the prizes had been distributed in the following fashion: 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$500; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$300; 3 HM's @ \$200. There were varying views about the prize structure and amounts, with some suggesting the dollar amounts should increase while others suggested they should not since the financial rewards were not central to the competition's mission.

George Hain confirmed that the overall prize amount would remain \$1400 for 2006.

After discussion, the board agreed to restructure the prize amounts to: 1<sup>st</sup> place \$800, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$400, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$200, plus an unspecified number of Honorable Mentions. Teams earning honorable mentions would receive formal recognition without a financial award.

The board's consensus was that this system was superior because it increased the reward among the top teams while giving the judges the flexibility to recognize more students.

The board also discussed possibly holding a workshop prior to the competition on public speaking and patent law, lead by Mickey, Jackie, Farnia, and Walt.



## **Alumni Weekend**

Harris discussed plans for alumni weekend, to be held May 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> this year. The program will generally be the same as prior years, but with a few modifications. The SEAS tent will be in a new location towards the beginning of Hill Walk. The parade participants will be 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> year alumni and not represent every 5 years. Harris mentioned that organizers are promoting the 'weekend' nature of the event, and hope to attract overnight guests.

George provided a comprehensive update of fund raising efforts to the board, while expressing optimism that 2005-2006 would be another 'great year'.

- George is working with a potential donor considering a \$2 million gift.
- The office is making good progress in securing estate gifts.
- Several receptions are being held this fall for Penn freshman, including ones in NY and San Francisco.
- On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the fee for sponsoring Junior Chairs and Endowed Scholarships will increase.
- Several gifts sponsoring Skirkanich Hall are expected

## **Student Groups**

Harris also updated the board about a new initiative to build stronger relations between the board and student leaders. With the help of Ellie and the development office, Harris and Joan Lau intend on sending student leaders a letter inviting them to a meeting. The meeting's mission will be for board members to better understand current student activities, open communication channels between board members and the students, and identify potential future members of the board.



## **Development Office Report**

George reported much good news to the board. This year's fundraising goal is \$11 million, but \$16-17 in gifts has already been raised. The largest gifts include a \$5 million unrestricted gift, \$2 million for a bioengineering chair, and \$500k from Katherine Crothall who recently sold her latest company to JNJ. Annual giving initiatives are also having much success for 2005-2006.

George mentioned that one of the drivers for gifts this year is the announced plans to increase the amount required for endowed scholarships from \$67k to \$125k and endowed chairs from \$2 million to \$3 million at the end of this fiscal year.

Also, George and Dean Glandt recently returned from India and London, where there are some very strong future development prospects.

## **Career Services Report**

Liz Stanley summarized results of the Class of 2005 career survey. The companies that most heavily recruited last year's class included Goldman Sachs, Microsoft, Citi Group, Accenture, and Lockheed Martin. Among those who are employed, about 1/2 are in consulting/engineering positions, 1/4 in finance, and 1/4 in research. Twenty Two percent of the class went straight to graduate school.

The Career Services office is recruiting corporations to employ members of the Class of 2006 with success. Recruiting is strong (slightly up from last year), and the roster of companies interviewing seniors included Disney, IBM, and PWC.

The next engineering Career Day fair will be held on Thursday 9/21. Several companies have already signed up.

## **Around the Table**

Ernie expressed his enthusiasm for the board's progress and energy this year. Bob mentioned interest in seeing the university develop a 12-month calendar that features each school as a product for sale. Rich invited the board to consider attending the Engineering Week banquet on Saturday 2/25. Brad invited everyone to the Philadelphia Car Show kick-off gala on 2/3/06. Dick Mulford reported that the Engineer's Week dinner would be held at the Inn at Penn on 2/25/06.

Tim thanked everyone for coming and announced that the next meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:  
Michael H. Ostrow