

Skull and Bones News

Spring 2004 Issue - A Publication of the Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group of Penn State



Officers (top class in parenthesis):

President

John Hook (Spring '80)

Vice President

Tom Hesketh (Fall '80)

Scribe

Jenny McCarthy (Spring '00)

Treasurer

Daniel Halperin (Spring '00)

Board of Directors:

Joe Battista (Fall '81)

Norm Brown (Fall '93)

William Cluck (Spring '80)

Jennifer Eggers (Spring '93)

Bill Jaffe (Spring '59)

David Joyner (Spring '71)

Kerry McCoy (Fall '95)

David Morrow (Spring '55)

Charles Naginey (Spring '52)

Stephen Reeves (Fall '80)

Stephen Ripp (Spring '82)

Robert Thompson (Sp. '59)

Immediate Past Officers:

Brad Kittsley (Fall '97)

James Tome (Fall '97)

Marci Fields (Fall '97)

Dan Hindman (Fall '97)

Ex-Officio Members:

President of Honor Society

Bob Fay (Fall '03)

Vice-President of Honor Society

David Davis (Spring '03)

The Skull And Bones
Alumni Interest Group
at Penn State
c/o John Hook
257 Aspen Road
Yardley, PA 19067
Info@SkullAndBones.org

Anniversary Celebration a Winner

90 years of Skull and Bones at Penn State recalled during weekend festivities

The Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group (AIG) celebrated the 90th Anniversary of Skull and Bones at Penn State on October 17th & 18th, 2003. The festivities began on Friday evening the 17th with a catered "cook-out" hosted by Sam Malizia (Sp '75) at his home in State College. Although the weather was uncooperative, Sam, the consummate host, was ready with a solution. He graciously opened his house to all guests and moved the party indoors. Sam and his family reside in the wonderful house just outside Boalsburg which was home to four university presidents from the 70's through the late 90's. Sam has been making restorations to the historical property and provided personal tours to all of the guests. It was a great evening and gave both young and old alums alike a chance to reminisce.

On Saturday night, October 18, a reception and dinner were held at The Penn Stater on the University Park campus. The dinner started with AIG Vice President Tom Hesketh welcoming everyone, in particular the oldest alums attending the dinner: Mickey Bergstein (F '42), Art Stober (Sp '47) and Gordon Davis (Sp '49). Then a "heart-healthy" buffet was offered and AIG President John Hook took the podium to provide an overview of recent AIG accomplishments. John presented a slide show history of Skull and Bones at Penn State created by Lee Stout (F '97H) of the Special Collections Department of the University Archives.

The next speaker was the then-Society President, Dana Cuomo (F '02), who introduced all the current active members of the Society. She made a special "belated-retirement" presentation from the active members to Robert "Bear" Koehler (Sp '57) in honor of his service to the university and community. John Cahir

(F'00H) and Jim Meister (Sp '58) were unable to attend the dinner, but were presented with the same award at a breakfast several weeks later. University President Graham Spanier (F '02H) spoke next, recalling his experiences with Skull and Bones, and introduced AIG Board Member and University Trustee Dave Joyner (Sp '71). Dave gave a glowing tribute to our main honorary of the evening, Kay Kustanbauter, the Executive Director of the Nittany Lion Club, who was the inaugural recipient of our SABRE Award (Skull And Bones Recognition for Excellence).

Kay was honored for her 38-plus years of outstanding service to the University, including the past 14 years as the leader of the Nittany Lion Club. During her tenure, the club has grown to over 18,000 members and provides grants-in-aid for more than 500 student-athletes.

The evening gave many of the newer members an opportunity to connect with the alums and start friendships that are the backbone of Skull and Bones. It was a fun event that well-served the AIG's mission of promoting communication and stimulating professional interaction among all our members. We look forward to providing additional opportunities in the future.



Kay Kustanbauter was presented this engraved plaque as the inaugural SABRE Award recipient.

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Letter from the President

From Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group President John Hook

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Bone:

The other officers and I wish you a wonderful 2004 and welcome you to the Spring 2004 edition of our Alumni Newsletter! We hope you find it informative and enjoyable.

There are several interesting articles in this edition I would like to point out: a recap of the wonderful anniversary dinner on October 17, 2003; the Alumni News section with a few fascinating recollections from our oldest alums; a reminder about the Ligament Program, which is about to debut a new and very useful feature on the website; an inspirational item about a new student member of the group; and a wonderful historical recounting of our organization.

I would also like to make a brief apology regarding the Fall 2003 newsletter. It was sent out in the third week of September, which is, unfortunately, the same time as almost every holiday catalog. This coupled with our cost-saving "pre-sorted" postal rate, delayed its delivery for some members until several weeks later. Please accept my apologies.

My sincere thanks go out to several members who made humble contributions to the group over the last few months. First, **Sam Malizia (Sp '75)** for all the work he did to ensure the anniversary weekend "cook-out" was a success. He went above and beyond in all ways. **Dana Cuomo (F '02)** the recent past-president of the Society did a fabulous job organizing the student members and helping with the dinner. She is a valuable asset to the group. **Lee Stout (F '97H)** did an exemplary job preparing the history presentation for the dinner. The previous president of the alumni group, **Brad Kittsley (F '97)** is currently handling the

ballot duties for the officer elections and deserves our gratitude for dealing with this onslaught.

I also extend my kind regards to the members on the opposite page who donated money to the organization – ensuring we can continue "promoting communication and stimulating professional interaction." The officers and board of the group are committed to professionally fulfilling this mission and we truly appreciate the allegiance so many members have shown. To that end, we have included in this issue a brief review of the recently approved budget for 2004 so you can see what your funds support. And for those who contribute over the next few months we

will offer a special token of our appreciation – a CD-ROM with our current membership directory in a Word file as well as the entire newsletter archives from 1986 to present in pdf files (We will send a hard copy of the directory for those without computers!). Please consider a donation and use the form on the bottom of the next-to-last page – thank you in advance!

...for those who contribute... a CD-ROM with our membership directory!

Lastly, **Tom Hesketh (F '80)** Vice-President of the alumni group and I want to recognize the efforts of two of our fellow officers. **Jenny McCarthy (Sp '00)** and **Dan Halperin (Sp '00)** have served as Scribe and Treasurer respectively for the last two years and have decided not to run for re-election. They have been an integral part of the organization and we wish to extend our gratitude for all their hard work and look forward to them continuing their involvement in other capacities.

Thanks again for all your support and if you have any suggestions for the Alumni Group, please let me know! For the Glory of The Bone.



Budget Information - Projected 2004 Expenses for the Group

<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Expense Item:</u>	<u>Notes to Expenses:</u>
\$ 120.00	Office Supplies	Postage: Based on monthly expectation of one board member mailing to 19 people at \$1 each, misc. receipts mailed for donations and three newsletters per year to 1,600 people.
\$ 300.00	Paper & Envelopes	
\$1,650.00	Postage	Printing: Based on three newsletters per year with 1,600 copies each printing.
\$ 75.00	Shipping	
\$ 600.00	Storage Space	Copying: Based on minor monthly needs and producing 30 copies of the membership directory for the new spring and fall initiates at \$6 each.
\$3,900.00	Printing	
\$ 340.00	Copying	Sweatshirts, Hats: Based on purchasing 30 sets of sweatshirts and hats for the new spring and fall initiates.
\$ 264.00	Website	
<u>\$1,600.00</u>	<u>Sweatshirts, Hats</u>	
\$8,849.00	Total 2004 Expenses	

Donor Recognition

The officers and board of the Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group would like to recognize the following individuals for their generous support (*tap class in parenthesis*):

J. Robert Hicks (*Sp '42*)
Mickey Bergstein (*F '42*)
John Albarano (*Sp '51*)
Earl Baker (*Sp '51*)
Arnold Gasche (*Sp '52*)
Robert "Bear" Koehler (*Sp '57*)
Bill Jaffe (*Sp '59*)
George Henning (*Sp '62*)
Robert Misko (*Sp '70*)
Stephan Rosenfeld (*Sp '72*)
Richard Starr (*Sp '74*)
John Coyle (*Sp '75H*)

Leo Lachcik (*Sp '75*)
Sandra Ford (*Sp '77*)
Susan Haddad Kemmerer (*Sp '77*)
Vicki Burkhart (*F '79*)
Bill Cluck (*Sp '80*)
Joe Battista (*F '81*)
Stephanie Miles (*Sp '90*)
Norm Brown (*F '93H*)
Sharon Mortensen (*Sp '96H*)
Brad Kittsley (*F '97*)
Pat Farrell (*F '01*)

Miscellany

● **TAILGATES:** Keep tuned to the website for information on tailgates for the Blue/White game in April and during the fall football season. For fall, **Bill Cluck** (*Sp '80*) has again offered his numbered space for regular tailgates and **Arnold Gasche** (*Sp '52*) has offered his numbered space on the west side of the stadium for the traditional Homecoming tailgate.

● **LEGACY:** The "Legacy" program is our commitment to establish a connection to all S&B members upon initiation. The program provides a sweatshirt, hat, welcome letter and membership directory on CD-ROM to all new initiates and is completely supported by your donations. It is a great way for the new student members to be introduced to the years of outstanding individuals in the organization. Please consider a donation to support this endeavor.

● **ARTS FESTIVAL:** As the University will begin celebrating its 150th anniversary around this summer's Arts Festival in State College, it may be a good time for an informal picnic or gathering of S&B alums. If you have any suggestions, please email John Hook at John@TheHookGroup.com with your ideas.

● **EMAIL:** Both the Alumni Group and the active Society maintain email lists to keep you informed of upcoming activities. The Alumni Group list is used only by officers and board members for distributing information and all email addresses are hidden. The Society maintains two "Listservs" which distribute emails from anyone on the list to everyone else on the list. **James "Dusty" Tome** (*F '97*) has created pages on our website which explain the differences between the lists and how to sign up. Please utilize this low-cost tool to stay in-touch with everyone! If you have any

questions, you can email Dusty at 1Dusty@PSUalum.com.

● **WEBSITE:** **Jayson Jackson** (*F '98*) has been working on a "revamp" of the website which should be completed soon. It will make navigating the site faster and will institute a password-protected section for job opportunity listings.

● **NEWSLETTERS:** Due to the diligent efforts of **Mary Anne Eves** (*Sp '81*) our newsletter archives have been expanding. We are gradually turning all the newsletters from 1986 - 1995 into pdf files and placing them on the website. Check out the "News and Events" page on the website and take a stroll through memory lane!

● **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:** Thinking of becoming a lifetime member of the Alumni Association? When you join as a Lifetime Member you can support our Alumni Interest Group at the same time. Write "AIG code IAN" anywhere on your lifetime membership application and the AIG will receive a portion of your dues!

● **COMPANY MATCH:** Does your company match your personal contributions to charities? As an affiliate of the Alumni Association, a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization, the AIG is eligible to receive matching funds contributions!



www.SkullAndBones.org

Alumni News

John Albarano (*Sp '51*) is President of Albarano Construction and Development and has resided in Williamsport, PA since 1960. He is president and a founding member of the recently formed Boxing Alumni Interest Group at Penn State which will sponsor a golf fundraiser on June 5, 2004 on the PSU "White" course. JAlbarano@prodigy.net.

Sam Nowell (*Sp '52*) and wife Libby reside at 17 Park Lane, Fair Haven, NJ 07704-3513. SGNowell@att.net.

John Baffa (*Sp '53*) 25 River Bend Drive, Callawassie Island, Okatie, SC 29909. Baffa@charter.net.

Stuart Kahan (*Sp '57*) is the Executive Editor of Thomson Corporation, based in New York City. SMKahan@optonline.net.

Robert Jubelirer (*Sp '58*) was presented a gift by friends and supporters on January 6, 2004 – a Trustee Scholarship in his name. The gift is in recognition of his excellence in leadership on becoming the longest-serving president pro tempore of the state Senate in Pennsylvania history.

Thomas M. Golden (*F '68*) the managing partner of Golden Masano Bradley law firm in Wyomissing is the president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He and wife Penny Fankhanel live in Reading, PA.

Peter O'Donnell (*Sp '70*) recently moved to Portland from San Francisco to begin a second career renovating and selling older homes. Enjoying the "empty nest" with three grown sons, the oldest just became engaged to be married and manages and is part owner of a high end wine store in New York City, the second works for Congressman Sam Farr (D.CA) in his district office, and the youngest is at West Point. 2732 NW Thurman Street, Portland OR 97210. Psodonnell@aol.com.

Dennis Maloney (*Sp '72*) 2434 Chetwood Circle, Apt. 201, Timonium, MD 21093. DFMaloneyMD@hotmail.com.

Robert Mazur (*F '73*) 1216 Queen Anne Road NW, Wilson, NC 27896-1442. RMazur@coastalnet.com.

Ron Stempka (*F '74*) is the Athletic Director for the Central Cambria School District. 301 S. Julian Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931. RStempka@cchs.k12.pa.us.

Susan Lampone Elmore (*F '75*) has son Andrew who became a freshman at Penn State in September 2003.

Skull and Bones in the 1930's

Older Alums Recall Their S&B Experiences

In October 2003, we sent a request to several of our oldest living alums asking them to provide us with any recollections they had about their involvement with Skull and Bones. Below are excerpts from those responses:

"Congratulations... in developing an interest in those who, over the years, have been chosen for membership... I can offer very little about the selection process at the time of my induction in 1932. Then a junior I was noticeably surprised to find myself among a group of athletes who firmly whacked my exposed backside and pronounced me "in" somewhere on Mt. Nittany."
- **Herb Longenecker** (*Sp '32*)

"In 1932 Skull and Bones recognized... soccer, boxing, wrestling, track and editors of the Collegian and Froth. As manager of the soccer team I was elected to membership... At that time Skull and Bones had casual members with minor dues. It was not a social group with parties, dances, etc. There were no coeds as members."
- **Howard Fonz** (*Sp '32*)

"...It was an honor to be chosen as Captain by

members of the Varsity Lacrosse team for 2 years and by those who were charged to select me for All-American status in 1934.

At the Skull and Bones initiation those chosen with me were loaded at dark (blind folded) in cars for a ride of about 2 miles to a place I still do not know. There, we were ordered to undress completely and with blind folds off, started climbing available trees (all thorn trees) with the additional hazard of "swinging paddles"! Looking down at a camp fire, members were enjoying food, drink and talk for about an hour or so. Putting out the fire they left immediately and completely. After climbing down, most of our clothing couldn't be found. We guessed our way back, variously running and hiding, but through town mostly hiding. It is an experience I remember clearly to this day.

"...It was most pleasant thinking back on my membership experiences in Skull and Bones."

- **George Koth** (*Sp '34*)

If you have memorable experiences from your days in Skull and Bones, please share them with everyone. Mail or email them to the address on the front of the newsletter and we will print them in a future edition.

8232 East Van Buren Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.
Susan.Elmore@comcast.net.

Tim Kavanaugh (*Sp '76*) CousinTim@comcast.net.

Bob Coppenhaver (*Sp '78*) joined David Gill, the president of the Shenango Alumni Society on a special skydive – David had convinced the Shenango campus to allow him to borrow their Nittany Lion suit to wear on a dive. Campus officials agreed, but warned him to "not scuff up the knees." A photo and short story were included in the Jan./Feb. 2004 issue of *The Penn Stater*.

Jerry Micco (*Sp '78*) has left the Contra Costa Times and will be joining the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as Assistant Managing Editor/Sports on March 15, 2004. He is also the First Vice President of the Associated Press Sports Editors and will become the organization's President at their June 2004 convention in Philadelphia.

Marc Brownstein (*Sp '80*) has been accepted as a member of the Young President's Organization, Philadelphia Chapter. He was also named to the YPO Executive Board. Marc runs a strategic marketing agency, with offices in Philadelphia and Seattle. Clients include Microsoft, DaimlerChrysler, Wharton School and Callaway Golf.
Marc@BrownsteinGroup.com.

Lisa Posvar Rossi (*Sp '81*) the Associate director of the news bureau, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, was interviewed in the Nov./Dec. 2003 issue of *The Penn Stater* for a story on WDFM, Penn State's first student radio station. Lisa recounted an anecdote demonstrating the dedication she and others felt for the station. Fellow brother **Dan Mushalko** (*F '80*) had been locked out of the studio and had to get in to do his show, "so he climbed out the newsroom window and shimmed across the ledge and jumped in the window of the studio. His wedding ring got caught on the window latch and tore off part of his finger. That's how committed we were."

Maury Billig (*Sp '84*) and wife Kathy have three children: Ryan, Tyler and Elizabeth who was born May 22, 2003. Maury is district sales manager for Shell Oil and lives in South Riding, VA.
MEBillig@motivaenterprises.com.

Susan Geist Layne (*F '84*) had a baby girl on Christmas morning. Mary Rachel weighed in at 10 pounds 8 ounces and joins brother Harry in the league of future Penn Staters. SusanLayne@comcast.net.

Michael Feinman (*Sp '85*) is a partner with the Delaware Valley Financial Group in King of Prussia, PA. 712 Governor Circle, Newtown Square, PA

19073. Feinman@comcast.net.

Stephen O'Connor (*Sp '86*) is the CEO and Group Publisher of the Budapest, Warsaw & Prague Business Journals in Budapest, Hungary. sao@bbj.hu.

Kenneth Hong (*Sp '88*) was named Regional Account Director, Asia Pacific for Manning, Selvage & Lee Public Relations as of January 1, 2002. Manning, Selvage & Lee (headquarters: New York City) is a member of the Publicis Group. First child, Yerin (daughter), born on February 3, 2003 in Seoul, South Korea. 82-11-9555-9273.
kenneth.hong@msslpr.com.

Yvette Dudley (*F '88*) is a Real Estate Attorney. Law Offices of Yvette Dudley, P.C., 134-05 Rockaway Boulevard, South Ozone Park, NY 11420.
YVDEsq@aol.com.

Judith Falce Peeler (*Sp '89*) and husband John had their first child this past summer. Ruby Catherine was born July 4, 2003. As a result, Judith has taken a new position as full-time mom and homemaker.
JPeelers@ameritech.net.

Stephanie Jefferis Miles (*Sp '90*) manages a small logistics software company in Cary, NC.
Smiles1@nc.rr.com.

Susan Williams (*Sp '90*) 103 Pennwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218. Susan.Williams3@comcast.net.

Darryl Bundrige (*Sp '91*) is the Director of Extended-Day Services for Foundations, Inc., a non-profit that creates, implements, and supports quality educational initiatives for children and families from poor communities. He lives in the University City area of Philadelphia, is doing work with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association, his neighborhood community association as well as state and regional advisory boards in his field of work.
Dbstate93@aol.com.

Mark Stewart (*Sp '91*) on December 10, 2003 launched a campaign for U.S. Congress, 17th congressional district of PA. Check out www.markstewart.us. Primary election day is April 27, 2004. Also, wife Sue and he are expecting their second daughter in April.

Joe Jorzak (*Sp '92*) and wife Joannie recently moved to a new home in Southern California and celebrated their first anniversary. He is looking forward to meeting any local Boners this football season. 21001 Annrita Ave., Torrance, CA 90503.
JJorzak@yahoo.com.

Gigi (Highland) Wolfe (*Sp '92*) was awarded The Five

Alumni News

Alumni News (cont'd)

Star Award from FedEx Corporation. She is currently a Project Engineer within their Express division in Memphis, Tennessee. Gigimikkos@aol.com.

Danielle Sweeney Alisesky (F '92) is with Deloitte & Touche in Pittsburgh. 3264 Nottingham Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. DSweeney@deloitte.com.

Michael LaFlam (F '92) was hired as a Public Health Analyst for the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. 3131 N. Druid Hills Road, Apt. #2301, Decatur, GA 30033. MLaflam@comcast.net.

Mike Imm (Sp '93), and wife Sandy have daughters Halle (4), Elle (2), and son Mack (5 mo). They live in Libertyville, IL. MikeImm@msn.com.

Maria Pena (F '96) was hired as Community Development & Research Coordinator for the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team in Los Angeles, CA and newly elected as Co-Chair for the Asian Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Caucus of Los Angeles County serving the needs of HIV/AIDS infected and affected Asian and Pacific Islanders in the Los Angeles area. 411 Riverside Drive #104, Burbank, CA 91506. mariatpena@aol.com.

Christine Flynn (F '97) has recently graduated from The University of Texas (May) with a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Since then, she has moved to the Boston, MA area and is working for MIT for a few months, then with a new start-up Biotech company! She looks forward to football games at Dear Old State now that she is within driving distance again! PSUFlynn@earthlink.net.

Marci Fields Hunn (F '97) was married to Andrew Hunn on November 1, 2003. She is a Program

Officer at the Corporation for National and Community Service. They now reside in Rockville, MD. MarciHunn@hotmail.com.

Jenny McCarthy (Sp '00) and **Michael Zollars** (Sp '01) rang in the New Year in grand fashion by getting married on January 3, 2004, and then quickly heading back to Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. The couple will honeymoon at the end of February. JennyMac15@hotmail.com.



A whole "crew" of Bones was in attendance at the January 3, 2004 wedding of Jenny McCarthy and Mike Zollars. From left to right are: Craig Pflumm (S '00), Stephanie Rowe (F '00), Dave Ulmer (F '00), Jessica Thompson (F '02), Mike Zollars (S '01), Brian Curley (S '02), Jeff Downing (F '02), Matthew Scmitt (S '02), Jamie Miller (F '02), Kristie Michael (F '00), Steve McIlwain (Sp '98), Katie Schiller (S '01), Buck Thompson (S '00), Jenny McCarthy (S '00), Eddie Elizondo (S '01), BJ Lucey (S '01), Korey Jackson (S '00), Sam Heriegel (S '00), Lee Kimball (S '01), Amy Nawrocki (S '01), Adam Gentzel (S '01) and Lourdes Ramon (S '01).

David Ulmer (F '00) and his wife Marion are the new proud parents of William Robert Ulmer, born on Friday, August 29, 2003. He weighed 7lbs 4oz, and was 20.5 inches long. 207 Cherokee Circle, Royersford, PA 19468. Ulmers@psualum.com.

Jeff Downing (F '02) has new address: 2220 Sandcastle Road, Wichita Falls, TX 76306. JDowningPSU@hotmail.com.

Penn State President **Graham Spanier** (F '02H) joined with past presidents **Bryce Jordan** (F '83H) and **Joab Thomas**, and together donated \$50,000 to create a Trustee Scholarship.

In Memoriam

Harry Henderson (*Sp '35*) a historian of African American artists, died September 1, 2003, in Croton on Hudson, NY.

Ross Lehman (*Sp '41*), former Executive Director of the Penn State Alumni Association, died December 12, 2003 in State College. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ross Lehman Freshman Leadership Award by making checks payable to Penn State and mailing to 1 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

Herb Beckhard (*Sp '48*), a noted architect and captain of PSU's 1949 tennis team, died September 11, 2003 in Glen Cove, NY.

(Some Alumni News reprinted courtesy of The Penn Stater, Penn State Live and The Nittany Lion Club Newsletter)

How to submit Alumni News:

Have you moved recently? Retired? Started a new job? Had kids or grandkids? What has been happening in your life? Keep everyone in Skull and Bones up-to-date by contributing information for the "Alumni News" section in our next newsletter! Send in the response form on the back page and include your "News" (add a separate sheet of paper if necessary), or email Info@SkullAndBones.org with your information. You can also submit news on our website at: www.skullandbones.org/newsinfo.htm. Pictures are always welcome too!

Ligament Program

Networking Effort Plans Job Listings on Web Site

The Ligament program was created to provide you with the names and contact information of other members who are in the field, location, company, etc., of your interest, so that you may make a connection.

There are three ways you can get this information:

1) Go to the "News and Events" section of the website and click on the "Ligament Program." Then complete the brief survey and "submit"

2) Email Ligament@SkullAndBones.org with your questions or information needs and **Jayson Jackson** (*F '98*) will respond to you.

3) Mail your request to: S&B Ligament Committee, c/o Jayson Jackson, 351 Toftrees Circle, Apt. 307, State College, PA 16803.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all members to support the mission of the Alumni Interest Group. We ask that if another member gets in touch with you for career-related information and identifies that they are contacting you through the "S&B Ligament Program" that you be as helpful as you can.

In addition, the Ligament Program will soon launch a job listings section on the website. This password-protected section will allow S&B alums to post job opportunities for viewing by other S&B members only. So check the website for the announcement of this great new service! ■

Student Exemplifies Humble Service

New Initiate Demonstrates S&B Values

A member of the Fall 2003 class was featured in an article written by Walt Moody in the January 14, 2004 issue of the Centre Daily Times. The article told a story which demonstrated women's basketball player **Kelly Mazzante's** (*F '03*) humble service, a hallmark of Skull and Bones membership.

Kelly had been filling up her car at a State College gas station when she was approached by a tourist from Wisconsin who wanted Kelly to autograph his ticket stub from the Penn State All-Sports Museum. The autograph was for a young girl back in Wisconsin who idolized Kelly. Kelly graciously signed.

According to Kelly, "About a month later, I get an email from the little girl's aunt. It said the man was on the way back to give Megan the autograph, but before he got there she had gotten into an accident and passed away. I was shocked by it." The young girl, Megan, had a tragic mishap on a farm. The family, knowing how much the autograph would mean to

Megan, placed the ticket stub with her in the coffin. Then on January 11, 2004, the Lady Lion basketball team traveled to Wisconsin to face the Badgers, with Kelly clinching a 60-59 Penn State victory with two free throws at the end of the game. After the game, Kelly was escorted out to have her picture taken with some people – Megan's parents, aunt and the man who asked for the autograph. Kelly said, "It was pretty intense. They said Megan was there watching the game in spirit." She added, "We all get inundated with people who want our signatures. It really is unbelievable because you never know... who's life it will change. It certainly had an impact that day. It was pretty amazing."

To quote Walt Moody's article: "Mazzante, arguably the most well-known women's basketball player in Pennsylvania, always has been humble and good with the fans that yell for her every winter." "It's a simple lesson for all of us – to treat people with respect and kindness. It's a routine that never gets old." ■

Skull and Bones History

A look at 90 years of Skull and Bones at Penn State

A new upper-class leadership honorary, “The Skull and Bones Society” was organized at the Pennsylvania State University campus in early December of 1912. It was one of six such organizations formed in a six-year period, and it had twelve junior men as its original members. It was organized with the purpose of eliminating false pride, excessive self-esteem, and grand ideas of personal glory, and to honor humble service and unselfish leadership.

The era of Penn State University President Edwin E. Sparks from 1908 – 1920 was marked by the rapid growth of extracurricular activities on campus. During this time many fraternities and clubs were started as well as student government and the Interfraternity Council. Honorary and hat societies were developed during Sparks’ term in office as a way of recognizing leadership on the part of students in both academic and extracurricular activities.

Skull and Bones was organized by these twelve juniors to distinguish outstanding senior men on campus, and to foster the advancement of academic and athletics interests, the perpetuation of honored traditions and the maintenance of the general spirit of Penn State. This was accomplished in part by promoting class spirit and “by untiring watchfulness, to forestall and correct any tendency toward a disregard for or violation of college customs and traditions.”

The 1914 La Vie yearbook marked the first appearance of Skull and Bones as a group with a photo of the twelve founding members. The founding twelve consisted of athletes and editors, and most were Agriculture majors specializing in Landscape Gardening – the predecessor curriculum to Landscape Architecture.



By the time the 1916 La Vie was published, campus societies, which had been listed with the local fraternities, were enough of a presence to warrant a separate section in the yearbook.

In the 1920’s honorary members were introduced as an innovation for the group. The first two were University President John Martin Thomas and head football coach Hugo Bezdek.

During the early years of the society, tapping new members was done in a public manner. The annual tapping ceremonies were held on “Move-up Day” at



the end of spring semester, when the junior tappees would be accorded their rank as seniors. In later years, the secretive introduction of new members became common.

The 1935 La Vie was the first yearbook to include a brief description of the society and indicate the broader variety of members inducted into Skull and Bones as compared to other societies such as Lion’s Paw and Parmi Nous.

The description read, “Skull and Bones, another upper-class campus society, selects its members from a wider range. It elects from outstanding juniors and seniors in athletics, publications, and other undergraduate extracurricular activities.”



Skull and Bones tapped its first African-American student in 1936. James H. Redmond was an



Agriculture Economics major from Philadelphia who was captain of the track team and a star on the cross-country team.

The Daily Collegian reported in 1944: "In pre-War days, freshmen feared and respected Penn State [HAT] societies. HAT societies have a job to be done. They should teach the freshmen class that Penn State customs have a serious purpose behind them." The organization has generally preferred to work inconspicuously toward these goals, but at times will never refrain from donning "the hat."

The Society was active from its founding until World War II, when many undergraduate men were called into military service and much of Penn State revolved around the War effort. The Society became inactive for 18 months after December of 1942 tapping. On Sunday, August 6, 1944, returning alumni Ridge Riley, Louis Bell, and James Coogan, tapped 10 outstanding men, and the Bone was revived. The society's selection and initiation returned to traditional spring-only tapping starting in 1947.

In the 1947-48 academic year, under the leadership of President Lawrence G. Foster, Jr., S&B tried to establish a national governing body for the numerous local Active chapters extant in the United States. The Society sent letters to 30 colleges and universities with the proposed national as a goal. Their efforts were not successful due to the fact that other chapters did not want to conform to national guidelines on who could or would be tapped, how to initiate, and what would be the purpose of each local chapter. Thus today there are several similarly named chapters across the U.S. that are not affiliated.



From 1948 to 1958 the campus societies were governed by a board of the society presidents known as the Hat Society Council. The Council established rules and procedures for all the hat



societies and helped to establish the societies' role and functions in student life, particularly in governing freshman customs and honors functions. It went defunct in 1959 and was revived again in 1960 for one year.

In the spring of 1949, a point system was initiated to "insure that the best possible senior men were tapped, without regard to friendship, fraternity, or any other affiliation. Nominations of new members consisted of accepting applications listing curriculum, cumulative GPA, and activities, limiting membership to 6th, 7th, or 8th semester men. The members were chosen by an elaborate point system with an attempt to obtain students with well-rounded activities and not just one field of interest. An applicant must have gotten at least 6 points on the comparative rating of campus activities. Those 35 men with the highest point total above six were then tapped for membership. Those accepting the offer of membership were then recognized at dawn on "Tap Day," after being put through the various aspects of Initiation. In fall of 1964 the tapping card system was done away with in favor of group nomination and voting.

In November, 1953 the Society voted to limit its membership to 25 total, in order "to maintain the prestige of the group by making its membership more select and to eliminate the sentiment that undeserving individuals were being offered membership in the hopes to fill out the membership total for that year. The membership limit has fluctuated through the decades of S&B's existence. In the years prior to WWII, the Society initiated 10 to 29 members. In 1951, the Society initiated 45 men and 43 in 1952. In the spring of 1967, the organization broke with 23-year tradition of 25 and initiated 28. Now the limit is set at 35 and has been since 1974.

Through the 50's and 60's Skull and Bones members acted as ushers at official College functions such as Honors Day in the spring and the inaugural reception for President Milton S. Eisenhower, who became an honorary member in November of 1952. S&B at this time cooperated with the Student Tribunal in instructing new students on College customs, traditions and history. S&B was very instrumental in beginning the Orientation Week activities that were first started in the fall of 1953, through members' serving as Orientation counselors, forerunners of today's orientation leaders.

It was also tradition during this period for Skull and Bones to form an honor line with other HAT societies on the football field



History

History

during home games. In past years, the Society sponsored pep rallies and other spirit-raising events for the team. The Society began doing so again with the 1991 Notre Dame-Penn St. game and most recently the 1992 Miami game. Following S&B's loyal support through the years, on March 31, 1950, the Society mailed out letters to 60 alumni clubs exhorting them to lend their support to the effort for a "Big time College Coach for a Big Time College," when Bob Higgins retired. We organized student rallies to testify to the fact that the team was moving to another level and needed the high-quality coach to match.

Partly through these efforts Charles "Rip" Engle was hired and he brought with him his "scrawny" quarterback from Brown, Joe Paterno: the rest is history. Rip, as he was affectionately known, was made an honorary member in the fall of 1954.

In the 1960's it was normal for honorary members to be called out of the stands at half-time of home football games and inducted then. Honorary membership was given only to University faculty, staff, and administrators until 1967, when Pennsylvania Governor Raymond Shafer was presented for membership by University President Eric Walker, being called out of the stands to accept his "hat." In 1968 PA Senator Richard O. Schweiker, an alum, was given the same presentation.



The 1970's saw a more laid back attitude among students and traditional student organizations lost the interest of many, with greek organizations particularly suffering. But the three upper-class societies, Skull and Bones, Lion's Paw and Parmi Nous continued on while the exclusively women's and underclass hat societies disappeared. However, many women abandoned their



First row: Geoffrey Thomas, Craig Bell, David Harris, Saul Solomon, Jeff Lobb, Rhodie Lantz. Second row: Dave Stahl, Gerry Lutz, Harry Hill, Ron Spass, Rick Wynn, Phil Jones, Joe Mandillo. Third row: Joe Meyer, Pam Schwartz, Dave Wharsh, Joe Mandillo, Bob Schuster, Ted Thompson, Harry Heider, Dan Hall, Tom Payne.

single-sex organizations to join with men in university-wide organizations and the first women were admitted into Skull and Bones in 1974.

One of the last appearances of Skull and Bones in La Vie was in 1980 as the society continued to diversify by race, gender and sexual orientation. The special category of Associate membership was created to honor a graduate student in each tap class, and the honorary list grows with current University President Spanier continuing a tradition of university presidents accepting membership.



The Skull and Bones Society at Penn State has always been a step ahead of society at large in the members it initiates. From the first African American initiate in 1936, to the first women in 1974, these firsts challenge any notion that Skull and Bones at Penn State be likened to an old boy's network laden with backward traditions. The first African American officer of the Society was Ronald Ross Davenport in the 1957-58 academic year as Guardian of the Skull (Vice-President) and the first Skullmaster (President) was Geoffrey A. Thomas in the 1969-70 academic year. The first woman to do the same was Mary R. Musca in 1977-78.

Membership in the Skull and Bones Society is highly regarded and stands as the highest honor senior women and men can achieve at Penn State University.

Lee Stout (F '97H)
Gerard A.L. Louison (Sp '89)
Curt Brosky (F '73)

The above history is an ongoing "work-in-progress" and was originally compiled by Curt Brosky in 1974. Gerard Louison revised it in 1993 and Lee Stout provided additional resource material and photos from the University archives in 2003. If you have any recollections or archival materials which would enhance and expand on this information, please mail or email it to the addresses on the front of the newsletter.

The purpose of the Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group (AIG) is to promote communication and stimulate professional interaction among our members. We are a group of Penn Staters who have a common bond arising from our membership in the Skull and Bones Senior Honor Society. As an affiliate of the Penn State Alumni Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations to the AIG are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent allowable by law. Our EIN is 20-0000907.

The S&B
Alumni Interest Group
c/o John Hook
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Yardley, PA 19067

NOTE:

If an asterisk appears after your name, we do not have your email address on file. Please help us reduce future mailing costs by emailing your address to Info@SkullAndBones.org! Thank You!

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