

# Skull and Bones News

Winter 2002 Issue - A Publication of the Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group of Penn State



## Letter from the President

From S&B Alumni Interest Group President John Hook.

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Bone:

Welcome to the Winter 2002 edition of our Alumni Interest Group (AIG) newsletter. Several months ago, the other officers and I were elected to serve you and administer the AIG. We are honored to have

challenge are listed inside and we are thrilled that they responded to our request. They comprise a broad range of ages and skills and are extremely representative of our membership.

Since my "day job" is as the CFO of a non-profit organization, I'm acutely aware of the most enjoyable challenge that faces all groups of our kind – fundraising. The reality, of course, is that to accomplish any of the ideas we present inside of this newsletter, we need donations of money, time and services. I am even more acutely aware of the financial impact the recent past has had on the "giving" habits

of many people and companies. So, without wasting any additional words, here is what I will say: if you have a soft spot in your heart for S&B; if you have wonderful memories and friends you made through S&B; and, if you believe that S&B should have a strong and useful alumni group; now would be an outstanding time to make a contribution to the AIG. You'll find several

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*"We are honored... and are excited about the possibilities..."*

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opportunities to offer your support within.

In closing, I must make a few acknowledgements. Nancy Narcum Pope, the founding President of the group, and Brad Kittsley, the immediate past-president, were both valuable resources to me as I began this new adventure. Nancy deserves special praise for taking the initiative to create the AIG – a perfect example of unselfish leadership. And a special thank you to the those great friends I made through S&B who have called and written with offers of support – rest assured I will find a way to "take you up" on them!

We look forward to serving you!



been chosen for these opportunities and are excited about the possibilities that exist within the AIG. We are working on several interesting projects -- you will find details about them in this newsletter. In addition, we always appreciate your feedback on what we are doing. Please call, write or email us with your thoughts – our contact information is inside!

In the years since 1980 when I was initiated into Skull and Bones, one concept that has intrigued me is the possibility of harnessing the incredible power of the alumni of this organization. Over the years we have been unparalleled within the University at identifying students who exemplify unselfish service and leadership, and many of us have gone on to utilize these traits in our careers. Our alumni list includes CEO's, presidents, entrepreneurs and business leaders as well as local, state and federal elected and appointed officials. The accomplishments of our alumni are varied, extensive and truly humbling.

Because of this incredible talent level, a primary goal the other officers and I set was to have several of you extraordinary individuals serve as members of the Board of Directors for the AIG. The Board's purpose is to provide long-term vision to ensure that the Skull and Bones AIG grows and prospers in the years ahead. The names of those who agreed to take on this

### Officers (tap 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 Active Society

Samuel Batt (Spring '02)

Vice-President of Active Society

Dorian Lowe (Fall '01)

# The "Project"

The Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group was formed in 1996. Our purpose is to promote communication and stimulate professional interaction among all members of the AIG. As one of a number of Alumni Interest Groups that operate under the auspices of the Penn State Alumni Association, we are a group of Penn State alumni who have a common bond arising from our University-recognized 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 Skull And Bones AIG are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent allowable by law. Our EIN is 20-0000907.

THON 2003 is February 21-23. If you plan on making a donation to the Four Diamonds Fund and would like Skull and Bones to receive the organizational credit for your donation, please go to the THON website at [www.Thon.org](http://www.Thon.org), and choose "Skull And Bones Society" from the pull-down menu near the bottom of the page. Our support will assist in allowing the active members to have dancers participate in the event.

## An Opportunity for the AIG to fund an initiative with outstanding long term benefits to the Society.

Since 1912 the members of the Penn State Skull and Bones Honor Society have contributed significantly not only to the University, but to the country and world as well. In an effort to harness these skills and do something "grand" for the Society, we have discussed three potential long-term projects for the AIG. To ensure our success, we will only focus on one of these projects, and that's where we need your help. We would like you to vote for which of the following projects you think the AIG should tackle. To vote, either:

- log on to the website at [www.SkullAndBones.org/vote.html](http://www.SkullAndBones.org/vote.html), or
- complete and mail the response form on the back of this newsletter.

### The three project choices are:

**1) Identify and fund a permanent "bricks and mortar" gift on campus that will be associated with the Skull and Bones Honor Society.** The Nittany Lion, campus benches and numerous landmarks are just some of the ways many groups and individuals have established lasting, positive contributions to the aura that is "Penn State." We would work with the Alumni Association to identify possibilities and determine the best method of achieving our goal – a testament to the hundreds of outstanding individuals who have been members of the society.

*Vote for the project you think the AIG should tackle!*

**2) Identify a location on campus where a "Skull and Bones" room could be created.** In the 90 years since the Society's inception, the active members of the society continually need to move and find space for the records, files, archives and historical information about the society. It is a burden not only from a physical perspective of having to transition this information to a new class every year – or more frequently – but from the historical perspective of what has been lost over the years. It is time that we treat these records with the dignity they deserve and establish a permanent "home-base" and mailing address for both the active organization and the AIG.

**3) Investigate purchasing and endowing the land surrounding the "Grotto."** In recent decades, the "Grotto" has become an integral part of the initiation proceedings for all new members. However, development of the surrounding land as well as the general disrepair of the property has made it difficult to continue this part of the society's tradition. If the society were to acquire the land, it would safeguard part of the initiation heritage of hundreds of S&B alums and guarantee its availability for the future use of all new classes, as well as allow us to preserve a scenic area and natural landmark in Centre County.

## The "Legacy" Program

### Create an alumni connection with the new initiates.

In an effort to improve the connection between the alumni and student/active members of Skull and Bones, the AIG has begun "sponsoring" all new initiates of the Skull and Bones Honor Society. Starting with the Fall 2002 class, we are providing each new initiate with a hat, sweatshirt, and a directory of all the members ever inducted into the Society. The purpose of this "sponsorship" is to establish a tangible connection with the current active members of the group, so that when they graduate and depart Penn State they will be motivated to maintain a connection not only with their peers, but also with all other alumni and the future members. The cost of this program is completely covered by the donations of Skull and Bones alums. We ask that each alum consider a \$25 contribution to this very worthwhile effort! To send your contribution, please complete and return the response form on the back of this newsletter with your tax-deductible donation.

## Lost Bones

### Help us keep in touch!

The Skull and Bones Honor Society of Penn State has initiated almost 2300 members since its founding in 1912. When the new officers arrived in June, the AIG had current addresses on 450 members. Since then we have increased that to over 600, but there are still hundreds of alums who have not been in touch with Skull and Bones for years. You can help us fill this gap and maintain contact with all our deserving alumni! If you would like to assist in this effort, email your name and tap class to [Info@SkullAndBones.org](mailto:Info@SkullAndBones.org), and we will email back a list of names of the "lost" members from your class and the surrounding two classes. You can then submit any information you have on these "lost" members! Or complete and return the response form on the back of this newsletter and we will mail this information to you! Once the AIG has contact information on all living members, we will produce a high-quality directory, which will be an outstanding resource for all alums.

# Meet the Board of Directors

The following individuals graciously agreed to serve on the inaugural Board of Directors of the Skull and Bones Alumni Interest Group. Their purpose is to provide the guidance and support for our long-term success, as well as offer critical comments, suggestions and ideas for the immediate needs of the organization. If you wish to contact them, please email: [Board@SkullAndBones.org](mailto:Board@SkullAndBones.org).

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 (Spring '59)

The Skull and Bones website is a great way to stay in touch with the activities of the Alumni Interest Group! Log on today!!!

[www.SkullAndBones.org](http://www.SkullAndBones.org)

## Meet the Officers

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, ideas or desire to get involved, please contact one of the officers listed below. We heartily encourage your involvement and participation!

**PRESIDENT - John Hook** (Spring '80)

Work: CFO & Deputy Director  
The Creative Coalition  
665 Broadway, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
212-614-2144 (direct line)  
[JHook@TheCreativeCoalition.org](mailto:JHook@TheCreativeCoalition.org)  
Home: 257 Aspen Road  
Yardley, PA 19067  
215-369-3445  
[Hook@PSUalum.com](mailto:Hook@PSUalum.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT - Tom Hesketh** (Fall '80)

Work: Events Manager  
PSU Center for the Performing Arts  
B-9 Eisenhower Auditorium  
University Park, PA 16802-2108  
814-863-7103  
[THH2@PSU.edu](mailto:THH2@PSU.edu)  
Home: 2267 Autumnwood Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
814-867-8611

**SCRIBE - Jenny McCarthy** (Spring '00)

Home: 416 1/2 East Irvin Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
814-777-0571  
[JennyMac15@yahoo.com](mailto:JennyMac15@yahoo.com)  
Work: Strawberry Fields, Inc.  
1259 Old Boalsburg Road  
State College, PA 16803  
814-238-2669

**TREASURER - Dan Halperin** (Spring '00)

Work: Special Events Coordinator  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
South Jersey Branch  
1415 East Route 70, Suite 502  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
856-429-1101  
[DHalperin@jdrf.org](mailto:DHalperin@jdrf.org)  
Home: [DanielHalperin@hotmail.com](mailto:DanielHalperin@hotmail.com)

## The "Ligament" Program

### Networking & Mentoring Program

The Ligament program was created to formalize the networking and career development activities of the Society. If you are in need of advice or guidance with your career path and profession, please contact the creator and founder of our Ligament Program, Brad Kittsley at [BKittsley@hotmail.com](mailto:BKittsley@hotmail.com)

## Donor Recognition

The Alumni Interest Group would like to recognize the following members for their generous support:

Greg Arnold (Sp '89)	Bob Koehler (Sp '57)
Mary Bennett (Sp '85)	Suzanne Lord (Sp '84)
Steven Carrel (Sp '95)	Michael Ostroff (F '74)
Cindy Del Rosario (Sp '98)	Shelby Perretta (F '94)
Ralph Griffith (Sp '52)	Samuel Starr (Sp '73)
Harry Hill (Sp '69)	

## Anniversary Celebration

### Skull and Bones Senior Honor Society turns 90!

The Penn State Skull and Bones Honor Society was founded on December 18, 1912 and will soon celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To commemorate this occasion, the AIG and the active members of the Society will organize a banquet sometime in the spring of 2003. This will be a great opportunity to connect with old friends, renew acquaintances, and allow the newer members to meet the exceptional individuals who have gone before them. In order to reserve a facility, we are asking for donations to cover the deposit. Please complete the response form on the back of this newsletter and include a tax-deductible contribution to help make this event a reality!

Not a member of the Penn State Alumni Association yet? If you join as a Lifetime Member, you can also support the Skull And Bones AIG by writing "AIG code IAN" anywhere on your application! The AIG will then receive a portion of your dues!

In an effort to reduce the AIG's mailing costs, we would eventually like to communicate with most alums through email. Please help us achieve this goal by completing the response form below, or email your address to: Info@SkullAndBones.org

Have you moved recently? Retired? Started a new job? Had kids or grandkids? What has been happening in your life? Keep everyone up-to-date by contributing information for the "Alumni News" section in our next newsletter! Send in the response form below and include your "News." Or go to the website at: [www.skullandbones.org/newsinfo.htm](http://www.skullandbones.org/newsinfo.htm) to submit your information.

*Skull and Bones News*

## Meet the Fall 2002 Class

**Dana Cuomo**, Women's Gymnastics  
**Kevin Donohue**, Men's Gymnastics  
**Jeff Downing**, Air Force ROTC  
**Rochele Haynes**, Miss Black Penn State  
**Conor MacDonald**, Men's Swimming  
**Russell Martin**, Overall Chair UPAC  
**Myron McClure**, Men's Track & Field (Associate)

**Jamie Miller**, THON Overall Receptions  
**Graham Spanier**, University President (Honorary)  
**Amy Stipe**, Lambda Student Alliance, Black Caucus  
**Matt Thomas**, THON Overall Chair  
**Jessica Thompson**, THON Overall Marketing  
**Doc Vecchio**, Wrestling  
**Michael Walkup**, Shakespeare in the Courtyard

## Alumni News

**Martin Hall Duff IV** (Sp '97) and Jessica Witmer were married on June 8, 2002 in State College, PA. Several fellow Boners were there. They now reside in Branchburg, NJ

**Tiffany Gorman** (Sp '99) and **Greg Arnold** (Sp '98) are currently living in Wheaton, IL. Tiffany is a Sales Manager at The Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference center in Lisle, IL. Greg is in his second year at The National University of Health Sciences and Vice President of NUHS's Student American Chiropractic Association.

**Jennifer Eggers** (Sp '93) moved to Charlotte, NC a year and a half ago to work for Bank of America and is now the VP and Director of Learning Initiatives. Jennifer still water ski's competitively and has qualified for the 2003 National Water-ski Championships.

**Michele(Gentile)Connors** (Fall '92) and her husband have a son, Caleb Joshua, born October 1, 2001. Since his arrival, Michele has taken a "sabbatical" from her previous job as a product manager, and now stays home full time.

**Eric Pratt** (Sp '97) recently moved to Washington, DC to pursue his Master's Degree at Georgetown University.

**Rebecca West** (Fall '01) is teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Boyertown School District at Gilbertsville Elementary. Becci can be reached at: 1471 Valley View Road Pottstown, PA 19465 (610) 326-1053

**Nancy Narcum Pope** (SP'93) and **Howard Pope** (Fall '94) announce the birth of their twin boys, Kael Connor and Maguire Logan. The twins were born May 30, 2002. The Popes, along with their dog River, live in South Riding, VA.

**Tony Lombardo** (Spring '97) and his wife Jennifer proudly announce the birth of their son Anthony Frank Lombardo, Jr. He was born on June 21, 2002. The Lombardo's reside in Chicago, IL.

**Olga Chernyak** (Sp '93) has recently moved to Dallas. She is working at Parkland hospital as a CRNA. She finished her MSN in November. Her email is: [O.chernyak@attbi.com](mailto:O.chernyak@attbi.com)

**Jill (Harris) Helmer** (Fall '91) and her husband Chad would like to announce the birth of their son, Reilly Jack. Reilly was born on June 22, 2002. 417 Natalie Drive, Allentown PA 18104 [cjhelmerpsu@aol.com](mailto:cjhelmerpsu@aol.com)

**Bill Cluck** (Sp '80) started his own law firm in July 2000 concentrating in environmental law. He is based in Harrisburg, PA.

## S&B ALUMNI INTEREST GROUP WINTER 2002 NEWSLETTER RESPONSE FORM

**Vote for the long-term project you think the AIG should pursue!**

**Check one box below.** (See page 2 for a description of the choices)

- Permanent "bricks and mortar" gift on campus  
 Skull And Bones Room  
 Grotto Acquisition

**Please help us keep our records current.**

Home Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Information:

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help find "Lost Bones"! Please send me the missing members from the following tap classes:

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my tax-deductible donation(s) for:

Legacy Program (\$25 suggested): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

90th Anniversary Celebration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to the: **Skull And Bones AIG.**

Please cut on the dotted lines, complete any necessary information and return to:

Penn State S&B AIG  
c/o John Hook  
257 Aspen Road  
Yardley, PA 19067