

PENN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

November 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

Penn Student Government (PSG), <http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/PSG>
Office of Student Life, Second Floor of Houston Hall, Philadelphia, PA, 19104
A publication by the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC)

Editor's Corner

Fall is always a fun semester for Penn Student Government. Since our first edition in September, we have elected new members to the UA and Class Boards and have appointed new members to SCUE and the NEC. Just recently, SAC has undergone a changeover with a new Exec board and Chairwoman.

On the evening of November 4th, crowds of Penn students came out en masse upon Obama's victory. The campus-wide voting efforts paid off, as over 90% of the campus casted votes that day.

On a micro level here at Penn, my hope is that we will all be as enthusiastic about our student government as we are about our federal government. I urge you all to take a stance and become more aware of the happenings on campus. Every day, we at PSG tackle issues that directly influence the student body. How well have you been represented? I encourage you all to learn more about your representatives, what we do, and how we serve you. As always, please feel free to give us feedback and ask us questions, we love to hear from you!



-Patricia Liu, NEC, Vice Chair for Education

Class Board '09

- Organized summer event at Penn Club of NY
- Held an awesome Senior Kick-off event at Smokes and Blarneys
- Facilitated Senior Fall Career Panel
- Encouraged civic engagement through Seniors Lead the Vote
- Collaborated with all Class Boards during homecoming
- Brought seniors for Penn vs. Princeton game at Princeton

Class Board '10

The 2010 Class Board has been busy this year working for YOU!

- Hosted our newest tradition, Abroad in Philadelphia in Houston Hall
- Co-sponsored the Homecoming Tailgate with Penn traditions
- Plan to host Junior Class Career Panel, an opportunity for all juniors to network with professionals and recruiters across careers in finance, consulting, medicine, engineering and law. Join us Friday, January 18th 2009 for this event planned with your future in mind!

Undergraduate Assembly (UA)

- Distributed freshman FAQ brochures to the entire incoming class and knocked on hundreds of doors in the College Houses to welcome first-year students
- Participated in NSO events, including the DPS Town Hall and Penn Life Sketches
- Continued work on a proposal (co-sponsored by the Inter-Fraternity Council) to allow registered parties and to develop late-night programming during NSO
- Passed a proposal urging administration to push back the move-out deadline. Progress has been positive
- In collaboration with SAC, has advocated for funding of political party groups on campus
- Hosted NY Times political reporter, Adam Nagourney, for a discussion through the UA Readership Program
- Initiated the Dartmouth Challenge, a friendly competition to encourage students to vote
- Organized a roundtable with an ABP executive about the establishments on campus

Penn Student Government FUN FACT

Judith Rodin, who became the first female president of an Ivy League university right here at Penn, is a proud PSG alumnus

Class Board '11

- Created a new website: www.penn11.com
- Hosted hypnotist Tom DeLuca
- Planned Homecoming on the Green with other Class Boards
- Hosted a Football Tailgate for class
- Held a free movie screening at The Bridge, with SPEC Film
- Currently planning Soph-Smores for reading days, and Sophomore Skimmer

Class Board '12

- Successfully planned and executed Econ Scream in the Quad
- Worked with the other 3 Class Boards to design and distribute T-shirts for Homecoming
- Currently planning Freshman Cram 'n Jam and the Freshman Formal
- Currently establishing corporate sponsorships with local and large-scale merchants and vendors
- Came up with a class slogan: "2012: The Dirty Dozen"



We Will Tell You:

the "WHEN": NOVEMBER 19
7:30-8:30 PM

the "WHERE":
COLLEGE HALL 200

SHOW UP to find out the
"WHAT?!"

PENN STUDGOV presents
and answers questions!

FREE DESSERT AND HOT CHOCOLATE

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Social Planning & Events Committee (SPEC)

- Connaissance brought Anderson Cooper, a sell-out event and has provided co-sponsorships to various student groups
- Jazz and Grooves brought Bustle in your Hedgerow to the Rotunda and Concerts brought Stephen Lynch to Irvine
- Special Events hosted No Place Like Penn, FrightFest and QuakerFest with free food and crafts/pictures for students
- Art Gallery is currently hosting an exhibit with Penn Med and recently went to the Rodin Museum
- Film has hosted 7 free screening at The Bridge and other venues across campus
- SPEC-trum is bringing Wale and Ryan Leslie on November 20th to Zellerbach

Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC)

- Spearheaded efforts to consolidate Penn Student Government by creating the official PSG Brand as well as creating and updating our very first PSG website. Check it out at <http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/psg/>
- Hosted one of the most well attended Student Government Information Sessions
- Participated in the first 5B Penn student government info session which focused on increasing minority representation within PSG
- Ran a smooth and successful fall elections cycle for the freshmen UA and class boards as well as a special SEAS UA representative for upperclassmen in the Engineering School.
- Increased our publicity efforts in the Fall 08 elections via candidates videos, DP ads and NEC flyering to ensure high voter turnout

Student Committee on Undergraduate Education (SCUE)

- Successfully concluded a 2-year negotiation with the College to post all course syllabi online
- Worked with undergraduate researchers and faculty at CURF by proposing changes and facilitating the search for a new CURF director
- Promoted problem-solving learning (PSL) by authoring a proposal, facilitating student-faculty partnerships, co-sponsoring a summit, and hosting a "Teach-In"
- Welcomed new freshmen and sophomores into our body
- Launched an international development studies program across departments

WE ARE WORKING FOR YOU ~ Contact us with any questions!

UA Chair: Wilson Tong | wtong@sas.upenn.edu
Pres Class Board '09: Brett Perlmutter, bperl@sas.upenn.edu
Pres Class Board '10: Arthur Smith, smithag@wharton.upenn.edu
Pres Class Board '11: Adam Behrens, adamjb@sas.upenn.edu
Pres Class Board '12: Jibrán Kahn, jibrán@wharton.upenn.edu
SPEC Pres: Michelle Jacobson, michelle@specevents.net
NEC Chair: Brittany Stark, sbritten@sas.upenn.edu
SCUE Chair: Zach Fuchs, zachf@wharton.upenn.edu
SAC Chair: Natalie Vernon, nvernon@sas.upenn.edu

Student Activities Council (SAC)

- Implementing new funding guidelines, effective this 2008-2009 school year. Figures hadn't been modified in ages.
- Working with Ben Coulter and the UA on funding political groups -- extension from our work last Spring
- Revamping the "customer service" of SAC -- making everything more user friendly (website, liaisons, meetings)
- Continuing to workout space issues, both in allocation and working with groups such as PAC to address ongoing concerns
- Planning the SECOND ANNUAL Spring Activities Fair!

SAC it to Me

A note of praise for incoming and outgoing SAC Chairs

Student Government Spotlight Member

Name: Natalie Vernon
Hometown: Cedar Rapids, IA
School: SAS '10
PSG Positions: New SAC Chair

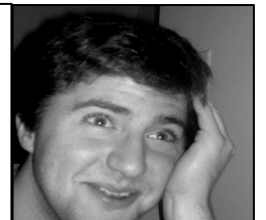


"Natalie Vernon is nothing short of awesome. She has been a clear leader on SAC since her election, and has spearheaded a number of higher profile initiatives. In particular, she has taken the lead on several important questions SAC is facing, including the issue of political funding.

Natalie serves as Treasurer of the Parliamentary Debate Team, and oversaw the restructuring of the team's finances after the break-up of the Debate Council. Furthermore, she has been instrumental in sorting through legal and policy issues in PSG's handling of political funding. Nowadays, Natalie can be found working to further SAC's outreach to umbrella organizations and other branches of PSG." Congrats, Natalie! (by former chair, Eric Van Nostrand)

Student Government Spotlight Member

Name: Eric Van Nostrand
Hometown: Clinton, NJ
School: SEAS and Wharton '09
PSG Positions: Former SAC Chair



"During meetings with competitive student groups it is inevitable that Eric will ask, "Are you going to win? Because SAC doesn't fund losers." As much as Eric attempts to play "tough guy" in these meetings, he has done more for student groups, winners or losers, than they realize. During Eric's tenure on SAC, he has helped several successful big picture initiatives to materialize. This includes a drastic update of funding guidelines, a reallocation of student spaces on campus, and realistic plans for groups with debt issues.

I am sure his list of known accomplishments speaks far more eloquently to his capabilities than my banter. For this reason, I would like to speak to his persona. Eric is an especially engaging individual that has contributed to Penn experiences in ways that are impossible to measure. The campus and community has benefited from his leadership and commitment. He is uniquely wise with a broad perspective and wry wit. He teaches as he leads, an important quality for an ever-changing SAC board. For these reasons, Eric's practical jokes, corny sayings, and off-beat jokes will be missed by the current board just as much as his courageous leadership." (by current chair, Natalie Vernon)

Email Patricia Liu - pliu2@wharton.upenn.edu - to learn more about Penn Student Government (PSG)