



THE LINK

CONNECTING OLD FRIENDS AND NEW

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RE-INTRODUCING THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS (OSA)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RE-INTRODUCING OSA 1

OSA FUN FACTS 1

CATCHING UP! INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS 2

WITH LOVE FROM SPEC 3

WHO IS OSA: STAFF INTERVIEW 3

CONTACT INFORMATION 4

In 2012, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) marked 44 years of service to the Penn student community! Launched in 1968, the then Office of Student Activities was directed by Jerry Condon and a small group of staff members who advised students in the creation of the Student Activities Council (SAC), and in 1972 helped the SAC Executive Board create the Undergraduate Assembly. At the time OSA was responsible for student activities, student government, New Student Orientation, Athletic Eligibility, ROTC programs, the student-run WXPN station, and judicial advocacy for students.

Between 1974-1981, the office grew exponentially. We assumed even more roles and gained more support staff.

In 1976, the Student Activities Office merged with Houston Hall operations and became the Office of Student Life Activities and Facilities (OSLAF). Shortly after the merger between Houston Hall and OSA, the Family Weekend program was transferred from the Development Office to OSLAF.

Spring Fling emerged as a strong tradition that same year and in the Fall of 1982, Bob Schoenberg started in OSLAF as a Coordinator for LGBT programs.

In 1984, Charlotte Jacobsen replaced Jerry Condon as Director of OSLAF. Leadership retreats were created during her tenure. Charlotte Jacobsen was also instrumental in the formation of the Program for Student-Community Involvement (PSCI). PSCI ultimately became the Civic House. Fran Walker was later appointed Director in 1987.

As programs such as the LGBTQ initiative, the ROTC and WXPN began to expand in the early 1990s, many were eventually moved to other departments or became independent entities.

With ongoing structural changes and financial developments in early 2000, OSLAF shifted to the VPUL Chief Administrative and Financial Officer and was renamed the Office of Student Life (OSL).

Finally in 2010, under the new leadership of Hikaru Kozuma, OSL's name was changed to the Office of Student Affairs signifying the organization's pivotal role in coordinating student life efforts, and actively partnering with undergraduate, graduate, and profes-

sional student organizations, in addition to its long-held roles and responsibilities.

Today OSA is a department within the Division of University Life and serves as a primary source of information and advice about co-curricular opportunities and resources. Staff members assist students in becoming involved in campus life, conduct leadership development programs, provide continuity for organizations from year to year, manage organizational finances, educate students about University policies, mediate disputes, advise event planners, and help students put classroom learning into practice through the techniques of experiential education. A full list of services provided by the Office is available on our new website (<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osa/>).

Although our office has experienced continual evolution since its creation, OSA continues to provide a wealth of resources for students and the greater campus community. This year we hope to bring Penn the same energy and affection you have given us for over four decades. Thank you for your continued support and interest!

OSA FUN FACTS!

- ◆ OSA was originally known as the Office of Student Activities and was created in 1968.
- ◆ OSA offers services to over 600 registered student groups!
- ◆ Lynn Moller, our Financial Services Center Manager was recently recognized for 35 years of Service at Penn.
- ◆ Rodney loves M&Ms. He has over 200 M&M figurines in his office!

Rodney Robinson, OSA Associate Director, sporting an M&M costume for the OSA Halloween Party.



OSA Staff 2013



Matt President of UA 2011

CATCHING UP:

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS MATT AMALFITANO

OSA was able to catch up with Matt Amalfitano. Matt attended Penn from 2007-2011. During his time at Penn Matt was a staple at the OSA office. He was the Academic Affairs Committee Chair, the External Vice Chair and ultimately the

President of the Undergraduate Assembly. In addition to his ongoing work with the UA Matt was involved in Greek life on-campus through Phi Kappa Sigma and an active member of the all-male sexual assault awareness student-group One in Four. Here is what Matt had to say about his experiences with OSA and his student group work

What is your fondest memory with your student group and during your time in student government?

[In regards to my time with the UA] it was a collective goal of our executive board in 2010-2011 to secure more study/lounge space for undergraduates in the middle (rather than the eastern part) of campus. We were lucky to have such strong support from the administration in our goal, and by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year had collectively moved towards renovating the previously sparsely used basement of 1920 Commons. My happiest moment was holding that school year's State of the School in conjunction with the NEC and SPEC (the first time all three branches had collaborated on the event) in the newly renovated space. Students from all walks of life joined to check out the new space and hear what their student government was doing

for them. Bringing people together to create a better Penn experience is what we were charged to do, and in that couple of hours, we did just that. Most importantly, those renovations were the start of a larger restructuring of the building, adding to places students can congregate and relax to this day.

I distinctly remember two [outstanding] moments [with One-in-Four]. First, my sophomore year the then-executive board traveled to St. Joseph's to give a sample presentation and help interested men put together a chapter of their own. To know that our message would eventually spread to another campus full of the same harrowing statistics was humbling but riveting. I also remember collaborating with ASAP on the 2010-2011 Take Back the Night event. To provide an outlet for individuals to share stories and lend support brought the campus together that much more... that night in particular was in the face of a string of reported sexual assaults on campus and provided a visible answer to the creeping fear/anxiety across campus.

What have you been up to since you left Penn?

I work on the Credit Sales team at Nomura Securities, a global investment bank, in New York City. I am a candidate for Level 2 of the CFA distinction. I will be playing on a flag football team starting in January called "Any Given Sunday." I am also a committee chair in Penn Admissions Virtual Alumni Interviewing effort, coordinating virtual interviews for students in the southern US. Training for my first marathon in March (after having

trained for the NYC marathon this year!)

If you could relive any moment at Penn what would it be?

Can't choose just one! Our team winning the burrito eating contest at the Line (or just any of the four Lines that I attended), the inaugural "hall meetings" I had with my halls as an RA in Fisher Hassenfeld, or Hey Day.

Anything else you want to add about your time at Penn or your intersection with OSA?

OSA was with me my entire Penn career-- my first Penn experience was at PENNacle and my last Penn experience was meeting with Karu and Rodney after graduation. My four years as an undergraduate were nothing without my involvements in student life; I made lifelong friends and learned lifelong lessons. I owe a lot to OSA and the leadership within it. Moreover, many of the community building aspects at Penn, from Penn Traditions to student groups to the intersection of student life and academics, only happen through the leadership at OSA. OSA programming brings students to Penn, and more importantly, is the backbone of their experience when there.



Matt Amalfitano, C'11

What a SPEC-tacular year we've had so far!

In September, we teamed up with the Class Boards to host Skimmer Fest, a pep-rally and carnival held right before the first home football game of the season. Students donned their Skimmer Fest t-shirts and filled up on sandwiches from Lil' Dan's food truck, as they rocked out to Philly's own *Free Energy*, before heading down to Franklin Field to cheer on our fellow Quakers.

Then in October, SPEC Concerts hosted Motown artist Mayer Hawthorne and SPEC-TRUM welcomed singer Miguel to perform in the awe-inspiring Harrison Auditorium at the Penn Museum. Both performances were incredible hits, allowing students a few hours to forget their studies and jam out to great music.

In November, SPEC Connaissance invited media magnate Arianna Huffington (a la Huffington Post) to give us a breakdown of the presidential election results and to comment on the role of the media in the 21st century. Students greatly

enjoyed her talk, and some even took Huffington up on her offer to post their blogs on her web site.

We rounded out the semester with the second annual Penn Music Collective, two SPEC Jazz & Grooves concerts held at Castle and SAE, respectively, a SPEC Art Gallery trip to the Barnes Foundation, and Winter Fest hosted by SPEC Special Events on Wynn Commons. There, students stuffed themselves with wintery treats and took pictures in the photo booth.

But, we're not done yet!

This spring semester, we'll organize even more SPEC Film screenings, run even more SPEC Sound events, and, of course, host the 40th year anniversary of Spring Fling. Our directors have been working extremely hard to put on the best events this campus has ever seen.

For those alumni who were involved with SPEC, you understand all of the planning, com-

mittee meetings, and last-minute fixes that go into each and every event. And while some days may have been more exciting than others, we hope that you have been able to incorporate the lessons learned from SPEC into your lives today. Whether it's dealing with people nagging you for information (read: SPEC Exec), filling out paperwork (read: getting receipts into the budget on time), or leading a group of peers (read: your wonderful committees), we hope your time on SPEC has helped you post-graduation.

As President, SPEC has shown me what amazing things you can do with a group of motivated students willing to make Penn a better place. We hope you'll be able to come back and check out some of our events in the spring semester.

SPEC Love,
Josh Oppenheimer
SPEC President

**SPEC is the Social Planning and Events Committee*



Student group events and Penn traditions build community and memories that last.

WHO IS OSA? STAFF INTERVIEW WITH JAN KEE-SCOTT

When did you start working at Penn and when did you start working in OSA?

I started at Penn in OSA, formerly the Office of Student Life Activities and Facilities (OSLAF), in 1987 as a volunteer Administrative Assistant. I was officially hired by OSLAF in 1988.

What is your role in OSA?

My major role in OSA is to handle all requests for payment or all Student Performing Arts (PAC) organizations and the Social Planning and Event Com-

mittee (SPEC). Additionally, I am responsible for processing the weekly student and staff payroll for several departments including OSA.

What do you enjoy most about working in OSA?

I enjoy working with the diverse student population of the university; many of them come to our office for information and direction. I get them the answers they need to find the person, places, or events that they seek on campus, and beyond. It all helps them to enrich their college experience at

Penn. Essentially I help them resolve some of their informational challenges and I really enjoy that process.

Where is your favorite place to eat on campus?

My husband is an excellent cook, and as a professional Nutrition Consultant (and Reflexologist), he prepares succulent vegetable-based meals at home, so that is the mainstay of my daily consumption. I bring something from home most days.



Jan Kee-Scott

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To find more information on student groups and OSA services please visit our NEW website at

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osa/>

Or follow us on

<http://www.facebook.com/UpennOsa>

and

<https://twitter.com/upennosa>

OSA would like to thank all contributors to this issue of The Link. If you would like to submit an article or participate in an interview please email Amelia Carter at:

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Winter Leadership Retreat 2012



Pennacle 2012



Penn Green 2012



Spectrum Winter Concert 2012



Skimmer Fest 2012



PennQuest 2012

