



THE LINK

CONNECTING OLD FRIENDS AND NEW

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A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is the time of year when nostalgia takes over. The everyday stress of campus life and one long, severe winter, still buried somewhere in our collective memory, gives way to Seniors creating their Penn bucket lists, the excitement of newly elected student leaders, the alumni who will soon be on campus and sunny afternoons on College Green. In short, spring at Penn is focused on the possibilities of what will be as well as reveling in what was.

Here in the Office of Student Affairs, we are very familiar with this bifurcated focus. At once we are encouraging students to grow, create and enhance themselves, their organizations and various campus events. At the same time, we hope they will reflect and develop awareness of themselves, others and those who paved the way for their current successes.

Over the summer and in the

coming year, we hope to engage with Alumni who interacted with The Office of Student Affairs (formerly Office of Student Life) during their time at Penn and see how we might be able to connect you with our campus-based Quakers. Perhaps you have a great per-



sonal experience which would make for an interesting blog post? Maybe you would consider coming back to Penn to speak or present a workshop? The possibility of mentoring a current student leader may be of interest. Clearly, we're open to ideas. We believe that strengthening this interaction with alumni who wore similar shoes to our current students will

only improve their ability to continue to change Penn for the better. Recently we added a sign to the front of the office touting the Office of Student Affairs as the place "where Penn comes to life." While the Penn of today may not be the exact same Penn as yesterday or tomorrow, it is no less true now than it was 25 years ago that Penn is what it is because of the students on the campus at that time. They give life to our programs, residences and classrooms. While the specific issues or events may be different, the skills our students develop have not drastically changed. Integrity, ethical decision-making, leading by example, articulating a vision; these are things which persist long after life at Penn. We hope the Office of Student Affairs can be a point of connection for current students and alumni alike, to continue that journey of self-discovery and improvement. We look forward to engaging with all of you in the coming months.

OSA FUN FACTS!



OSA Staff 2014

- This year OSA started a new office tradition called "It's all about you day". On this randomly selected day of the year an unsuspecting office member is surprised with gifts and a desk covered in balloons streamers and decorations. This Fictitious holiday allows us to show our appreciation for each other year round.
- OSA gets around! Between all nine OSA employees the group has traveled to 26 countries on four continents!

CATCHING UP:

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS DASHA BARANNIK



Dasha Barannik in 2014

OSA was able to catch up with Dasha Barannik. Dasha attended Penn from 2006-2010. During her time at here Dasha was a tremendous asset to OSA as a work study student, the Spring Fling Director and the Exec Secretary for the Social Events Planning Committee (SPEC). In addition to her ongoing work with OSA she was the President of the International Affairs Association, the Chief of Staff for the ILMUNC, participated in PENNacle and was a member of the Sphinx Senior Society. Here is what Dasha had to say about her experiences with OSA and what she's up to today!

What is your fondest student activities memory?

Walking through the Quad early on the Friday of Spring Fling, before anyone had woken up and the madness of the weekend truly began. I really appreciated having the time to reflect on the hard work



Dasha with Preston Hershorn
Spring Fling 10'

that had led up to that moment, as well as simply to appreciate the beauty of the Quad.

What have you been up to since you left Penn?

After graduating, I worked as a management consultant based in Boston, advising clients across four different industries including beauty and distilled spirits. Eventually, I felt the entrepreneurial itch, and joined sweetgreen, a venture-backed, fast-casual restaurant chain. Over the course of one year, I developed, launched and managed Washington DC's first line of organic cold-pressed juice. In early 2013, I moved to San Francisco with my now-fiancé, Anthony (Penn '09), after a lifetime of living on the East Coast, and joined Felicis Ventures, an early-stage venture capital firm. We've invested in companies such as Fitbit, Shopify, Rovio (Angry Birds) and many others. In my current role, I serve on the investment team, evaluating prospective investments, supporting our portfolio community, and ensuring efficient internal processes. I love

living in the Bay Area -- high-quality food, a relaxed pace of life, and beautiful, accessible nature make it a really special place to call home.



Dasha with Snoop Dogg 2010

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

I would relive any number of nights spent with my best friends from Penn, dancing, laughing, and occasionally making bootleg 2am mac 'n cheese in electric water boilers. I would also relive post-Fling leftover candy.

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

OSA holds a really special place in my heart. I had a ton of fun serving on SPEC and am so grateful to have had the chance to organize some of Penn's most memorable events. Katie, Rodney and many others at OSA helped shape me into the person I am today by supporting my personal growth, making me a better leader and a more outgoing person overall. I worked at the OSA front desk for work study and loved being the first point of contact for students and other visitors.

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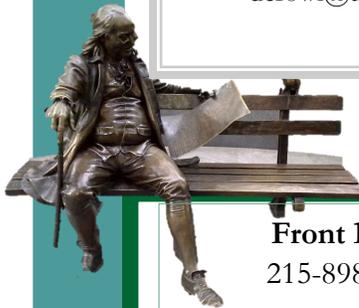
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To find more information on student groups and OSA services please visit our NEW website at

<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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Retta Stand Up, 2014



Mathew Perry Talk, 2014



Vince Gilligan Talk, 2014



Janelle Monáe
Spring Fling, 2013



The Neighborhood Concert, 2014