A of A Event Favorites

Welcoming Alumni, First September Style
By Nicole Oddo C'05, President, Penn Alumni Club of Philadelphia

One of my favorite Penn alumni events is First September, our chance to welcome the newest graduates to life as Penn Alumni. If you haven't heard about this Penn alumni tradition, you can read more about how Penn Alumni Regional Clubs around the country and around the world welcome Penn’s newest graduates.

For me, this event has very special meaning as I've been involved with six different celebrations and planned my “first” First September in Arizona in 2006. In fact, the Penn and Wharton Club of Arizona have continued to host it at same venue, the centrally located Ritz Carlton in the Biltmore section of Phoenix.

Now as the Penn Alumni Club of Philadelphia President, it is one of the many great events I get to attend. Philadelphia's 2012 event was a success - hosted at the Urban Saloon in the Fairmount neighborhood of the city - was an informal gathering over food and drinks. Alumni gathered from many schools and class years. For many, this was their first event with the Club. This was a chance for us to meet new people - something I always enjoy!

I look forward to many more First September celebrations and getting a chance to see alumni at other events throughout the year. Don’t miss out on future events in your area! Get involved with the Penn Alumni Regional Club nearest you.

A of A’s Summer Social in Philadelphia
By Jenny Chung, W’97, A of A Social Committee Chair

We had a wonderful time at Sabrina’s Café in University City on Wednesday, July 25. We took advantage of the University City’s Dining Days special, so we were expecting a good deal, but our expectations were exceeded once we saw how large the portion sizes were!

With all 40 of our spots filled, we practically took over the entire restaurant. I saw many familiar faces, but decided to sit at a table with people whom I had never met before. I love AofA social
events because such a diverse group of women attend – I met graduates from Architecture, Nursing, and Wharton with ages that range from 30s to 60s. We shared stories about our experiences at Penn, our current occupations, and other opportunities to connect. I especially loved one woman’s story about how she met her husband at the first Penn Spectrum alumni conference in 2010, which celebrated diversity and community at Penn. I remember it being a fantastic conference but she clearly got more than she expected out of attending! (FYI – the next Penn Spectrum conference will take place in fall 2013. Watch for details.)

So this is the spirit behind the AofA Social events – we leave having reminisced about our time at Penn, made some great connections, and found more reasons to look forward to the next event. This is especially true this year because it is the AofA’s 100th anniversary! It is amazing to see how far women have come both at, and after, Penn.