



# STOUFFER ALUMNI NEWS

Stouffer College House of the University of Pennsylvania

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 20, 2007

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## Nihil Domo Similius



## RANDOM HAIKUS ABOUT STOUFFER

*Felicity is  
Seven floors and six sections  
Of family*

*Monday-Wednesday sweets, laughter  
With those who know you  
Better than you do*

*Shoot  
The trash chute is  
Backed up again*

*Open-door policy  
Not a dormitory, but  
A single-family home.*

*(Jen Light, C'07)*

*Community rocks  
The foundation we stand on  
And love as our home*

*(Evan Benshetler, E'10)*

## STOUFFER COLLEGE HOUSE IS EXPANDING

*By: Phil Nichols, Faculty Master*

In this inaugural issue of the alumni newsletter, I want to let you know that Stouffer College House is expanding. Actually, this is not news. Stouffer College House gets bigger every year. We do not get bigger physically (although we did briefly enjoy occupancy of the ZBT fraternity house



while they took a break from having a presence at the University of Pennsylvania). We get bigger as a community, because every year new people join us, while those who have been here stay a part of our community. Every year the number of people who can say that Stouffer has been their home grows larger. And we are all the better for it.

You may not live in Stouffer any more. You may not share a bathroom with twelve people, or have odd sounds and smells coming up through your vents, or give pet names to small rodents that wander in and out. You may not sleep out on the patio or come to cookies. But you will always, always be a part of Stouffer College House.

I am very happy that we are taking a more active role in communicating with the alumni members of our community, and this newsletter is an important part of that. I hope that you enjoy hearing about the House, and about each other, and that the relationships that you started here will continue to flourish. And I especially hope that you will continue to stay involved in this community.

Many of you have pointed out that Amy and I are perhaps the luckiest people around, except maybe for Karl Otto (for the younger among you, Karl was the Faculty Master before us; he resided in Stouffer for twelve years). You point out that we do not have to move out after four years (or, for several among you, five). That is true, but that is not why we are lucky. We are lucky because we have gotten to meet all of you. And besides, once you live in Stouffer you never really leave.

# GREETINGS FROM THE HOUSE DEAN!

*By: Michele Grab, House Dean*

Dear Fabulous Stouffer College House Alumni-

Greetings from Stouffer! Welcome to the first edition of the Stouffer College House Alumni newsletter. We've talked a lot about getting back in touch with our alumni in the past few years but in true Stouffer fashion it takes several students to motivate us into action. The newsletter is one part of our plan to create an alumni network for the House. Our goal is to do a better job of keeping alumni connected to the House so that our current residents can gain the benefits of your wisdom and to provide a variety of forums for alumni to reconnect with one another. What makes Stouffer the best College House on campus are the people who live and work here and we want to make our dominance even more apparent by capitalizing on our alums as well as our current students! Recently some of our current residents met and brainstormed some ideas for the alumni network:

- Alumni Brunch
- Smores Night
- Alumni BBQ in the Summer
- Alumni Cookie Night
- Database - who's doing what for career stuff, a buddy system between alums and residents, both for careers and Penn activities. Also, (in time) Stouffer related activities in other cities.
- Alumni come talk about research/careers at Senior Dinners
- Happy Hours
- Offering the Annual Stouffer T-Shirt to Alums for Purchase
- Alumni vs Residents sports game
- Fantasy Sports between alums and residents
- Stouffer Sports night (sixers game, Penn Basketball where alums and residents go together)

We're excited to get some of these ideas off the ground - if you want to spearhead any of these events please let us know! Currently Sathvik Tantry W'07 and Corey Hulse W'07 are leading the charge of this group so definitely let them know if you have ideas. You can e-mail them at [stoufferalumni@gmail.com](mailto:stoufferalumni@gmail.com).

Our first goal is to make sure we connecting with all of our alums. Please make sure to send us your most up to date contact information and pass this newsletter along to any other Stouffer people you are in touch with. We've done the best we can but I'm sure we've missed people! Expect to see a newsletter like this with updates on all of our happenings and information on upcoming events at least twice a semester. To keep costs down, we will be using e-mail addresses to send out the newsletter whenever possible so make sure we have your preferred e-mail address.

Stouffer is probably much like you remember it when you were here - we still have cookies and coffee on Wednesday nights at 10pm with the faculty master, we still get together to eat dinner together in the dining hall, and we still have the highest retention rate of any college house on campus. But we do have some new things as well - two years ago the College House Cup competition was started and I am happy to report that we are currently dominating the third year of competition after securing the cup for the past two years. Some of you may have been here when this happened but some may not know that Stouffer College House currently consists of three separate buildings - Stouffer Hall, Mayer Hall and the Stouffer Annex. Next year the Annex will return to the ZBT fraternity and we will return to two buildings once again but for the past three years its been part of the Stouffer family. What hasn't changed at all is that people still love living in Stouffer and we still hate the Quad. I may be relatively new to the House (this is my third year here) but I know enough to know that's never going to change.

Keep in touch!

Michele Grab

House Dean

Nihil Domo Similius -- "Nothing Comes Closer to Home."

# STOUFFER COLLEGE HOUSE FAST FACTS

By: Corey Hulse, W'07 and Stouffer Communications Manager



## STOUFFER HALL

Residents: 136  
 Built In: 1972  
 Named After: Vernon J. Stouffer, a 1923 graduate of Wharton  
 Graduate Associates: 5  
 Fun Features: Patio, Hammock, Pool Table, Foosball Table, Piano



## MAYER HALL

Residents: 175  
 Built In: 1964  
 Named After: Harold C. Mayer, a 1915 graduate of Wharton  
 Graduate Associates: 5  
 Fun Features: Big Screen TV, Gym, Table Tennis, Foosball Table



## STOUFFER ANNEX

Residents: 32  
 Annexed in: 2005  
 Named After: John Q. Annex, 1996 graduate of the College  
 Graduate Associates: 1  
 Fun Features: Pool Table, Huge Community Kitchen, The Franklin Community

# STOUFFER = DYNASTY

By: Mike Housman, Graduate Associate

Dynasty (from Wikipedia):

In sports, the term "dynasty" is often used to refer to a team that dominates their sport for a period of time. Such dominance is usually recognized only after a team has won many championships in a given time (3 in 4 years, 5 in 8 years, 7 in 12 years, etc.).

For the past three years, the Residential Advisory Board (RAB) has organized an intramural sports competition between college houses called the College House Cup. Not surprisingly, Stouffer has won the College House Cup for two consecutive years and is en route to its third championship. In light of this remarkable achievement, I think it's about time to address the obvious question that's on everyone's mind: does Stouffer's continuing dominance in intramural sports qualify it as a dynasty? I think the best way of answering this question is comparing Stouffer to other sports dynasties.

For example, the Chicago Bulls won a total of 6 championships from 1991 to 1998. Pretty impressive, huh? Well, Stouffer's basketball team has won the college house intramural league for two straight years, beating arch-rival Gregory house in its most recent championship game by a score of 41-14. The last time that the Bulls doubled the score of any opposing team? Never (according to the Elias Sports Bureau). They had Michael "Air" Jordan, we have Josh Gonzalez who we like to call "The Postman" because he always delivers. Slight edge: Stouffer.

From 1996 to 2005, the New York made 6 World Series appearances, 10 playoff appearances, won 4 championships, and 9 division titles. Not too shabby. But from 2004 to 2006, our softball team - the Stouffer Bowens - won 2 College House Cups and nearly beat the fraternity league championship team to advance to City 6. Plus, the team's namesake - Matt "No Slowin" Bowen - hit one homerun so hard that it's reputed to still be circling the globe. In fact, it was last seen flying over Ecuador. Plus, he's now getting his Ph.D. in Math from Duke University. Sorry ladies, he's taken. What do the Yankees have? Gary Sheffield. Big edge: Stouffer.

In football, the New England Patriots won a total of 4 division titles and 3 championships from 2001 to 2005. <yawn> Did they win two consecutive intramural football championships against teams they had previously lost to? Nope. Do you know what that's called? Heart. Do I like asking rhetorical questions? Yes. It's easy to win on your home turf when there are 50,000 fans cheering you on. It's harder to win in the blistering cold of Franklin Field when your cheerleading team consists of only Michele Grab and Beth Hagovsky (no offense Michele and Beth; we love you guys). Slight Edge: Patriots.

So there you go. On the face of it, Stouffer probably qualifies as a "dynasty" but I think we just need to finish off our third consecutive championship to solidify our position. If we win again, we'll be remembered for decades down the line as the college house that dominated intramural competition to such an extent that most houses refused to participate rather than suffer such devastating losses at our hands. At least that's what I tell myself when we win games because the opposing team forfeited. Still, let's keep up the good work and bear in mind the words of the great Raiders coach, Al Davis: "Just win, baby." And don't forget to have fun too!

## STOUFFER STEERING

*By: Dan Berger, E'07*

Hi, my name is Dan Berger and I am president of Stouffer's Steering Committee this semester. For those of you who don't know, Steering is comprised of a group of students from all over Stouffer who meet every week to determine how to allocate the funds given to Stouffer by the University. We get \$5000 a semester to spend on various activities around the house. Most of the events are organized by GA's and senior staff, but everyone is encouraged to come up with great events for the house. Every semester I have been in Stouffer has seen a wide variety of activities funded by Steering, and the current semester is no exception. Some of the more recent events include subsidized meals to various restaurants around Philadelphia, tickets to the spring Mask & Wig show, numerous study breaks, and tickets to a Phillies game. Yearly traditions have not been overlooked either, as we are all looking forward to the Dutch Auction and the Semi-Formal. Over the past few years we have been averaging an event a day, and most of these events have been subsidized by Steering. Beyond allocation of University funds, Steering has some of the most dedicated members of the house, and therefore serves as a great mechanism for getting information out about events, and getting input about Stouffer issues. Michele Grab, our house dean, makes it a point to let Steering members know when anything important is going on, so we can relay that information throughout the entire house. As Steering is comprised of two representatives from every floor in Mayer Hall, section in Stouffer Hall, and two from the Annex, Steering makes it very easy to represent all of Stouffer well, while at the same time informing the house about issues that effects its residents.

## STOUFFER T-SHIRTS!

FOR SALE! This Year's 2007 Stouffer College House T-Shirt!

This year's shirt was designed by Drew Hill, C'08 and Special Events Manager



**FRONT**



**BACK**

AVAILABLE FOR \$15  
PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE AT:  
<http://stouffer.house.upenn.edu>

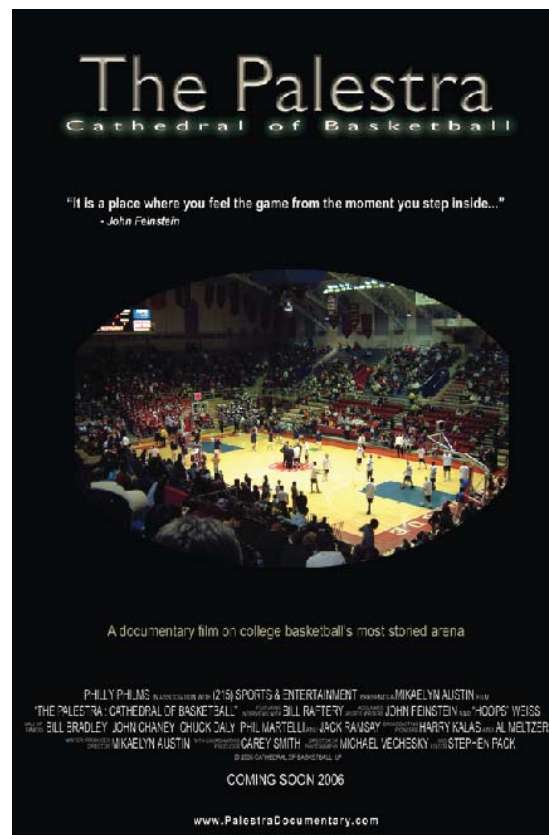
# STOUFFER ALUM CAPTURES PALESTRA MAGIC

*By: Everett Herman, Outgoing House Coordinator*

Greetings and Salutations! As the outgoing House Coordinator and Penn alum of 2003 (that unfortunately never got to live in Stouffer as an undergrad!), I can assure you, that yes – for many of you, it would be difficult to be admitted to the University of Pennsylvania with the application you submitted what seems like eons ago. However, I’m sure there are some of you out there doing some amazing things! I urge you to come back to Stouffer! There are some great students living here, and would love to meet you to see how it was in the “old days” and ask for career guidance!

Mikaelyn Austin is one such talented alumnus. A women’s basketball player and active Stoufferite, Mikaelyn recently finished work on a documentary, “The Palestra: Cathedral of Basketball.” On March 14, Mikaelyn screened the film in the Mayer Playroom, and stopped by Coffee and Cookies to answer questions about the film. For more information on the documentary, visit <http://www.palestradocumentary.com> !

*We want to know what our alums are up to! If you are involved in a cool project, we’d love for you to come to Stouffer to talk about it! E-mail [stoufferalumni@gmail.com](mailto:stoufferalumni@gmail.com) to find out how you can come back and meet the best students at Penn!*



## THIS IS ONLY THE START

*By: Sathvik Tantry, W'07*

Dear Stouffer Alumni,

For many of us, Stouffer was really a home away from home during college. We shared memories and built lasting friendships, which we hope to maintain well after graduation. Therefore, we are forming a Stouffer Alumni Society to help us stay better connected as a community.

Because this organization is still in its formative stages, it can be whatever we want it to be. I hope that at the very least, it will be a mechanism for us to stay in touch and kept valuable friendships intact. Along these lines, we would like to plan alumni-related events and activities in conjunction with current college house students.

If you are interested in being involved in any capacity, please contact us at [stoufferalumni@gmail.com](mailto:stoufferalumni@gmail.com) for more information.

## HISTORY OF THE CREST

Nicole Joseph's design (created in 2000) for Stouffer College House is a blue shield upon which a wyvern, an estoile, and a moon are depicted. The wyvern is a dragon in profile that symbolizes valor and protection; the estoile (a star with wavy points) symbolizes celestial goodness and noble people; and the moon stands for "serene power over mundane actions." The shield is intersected across the top with an embattled line symbolizing fortress walls that protect one's home. A scroll beneath holds the motto "Nihil Domo Similius" -- "Nothing Comes Closer to Home." We have negotiated with the Stouffer Food Company (Nestle USA) to give us permission to use this Latin "twist" on their trademark motto.



**Visit Us Online! <http://stouffer.house.upenn.edu>**

# SAVE THE DATE!

By: Matt Sklar, E'04 and Current Graduate Associate

Nine years ago a brave young woman named Melissa Sengbusch came to Penn to live in Stouffer College House. Coming to Penn was her dream, and after seeing Stouffer and meeting the people who lived here she knew she had found her new home. 8 years ago Melissa lost her battle with Leukemia, and Stouffer lost an amazing member of our family.

Melissa's dream was to become a nurse, and in memory to their daughter, Melissa's Parents established the Melissa Sengbusch Inspiration Scholarship Fund at the School of Nursing, an scholarship awarded annually to a worthy candidate nursing student.

Now almost a decade later, Stouffer continues our annual tradition of holding a charity auction in memory of Melissa, in which all of the benefits go towards funding the scholarship in her honor.

For eight years members of our community have banded together to offer up goods and services in order to raise money for this great cause, and now it is our turn.

This year's auction will take place on Sunday **April 15th, 2007** at the annual spring fling Stouffer BBQ. I encourage all of you to come and enjoy the fun and community of this great event!

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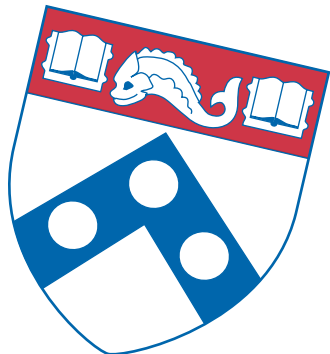


## WONDERING HOW TO STAY CONNECTED TO PENN? VISIT [www.alumni.upenn.edu](http://www.alumni.upenn.edu)!



- Regional Clubs
- Online Giving
- Alumni Group
- Class Gift Committees
- Volunteer Opportunities

- Reunions
- PENNefts
- Career Services
- Podcasts
- QuakerNet\*



\*Join QuakerNet, the alumni online community, and keep in touch with friends, create an alumni email address, use the Penn Alumni Career Network, and more!