



Summer 2009

SNAT CHAT

The Official Newsletter of the All Campus Radio Network Alumni Society

ACRN Alumni Society: OU's Best

The perpetual underdog, ACRN never expects to win at anything. So when the OU Alumni Association's Senior Director of Alumni Relations and Development Greg Scharer announced the winner of the 2008-2009 Outstanding Society Award at this year's Alumni Leaders Conference banquet, at least the Rock Lobsters in the crowd were shocked.

It wasn't that we hadn't tried. Nominations were submitted in all three categories: Outstanding Society, Best New or Reorganized Society, and Innovative Society Program. We are a modest bunch, so we submitted only under protest that "we couldn't possibly win."

We were barely eligible for Best New or Reorganized Society, having officially been formed two years prior, squeaking under the deadline for nomination. Our innovative program wasn't really that innovative (the Chicago Brunch 2008, which started our national tour), and we didn't consider ourselves "Outstanding" but apparently the Alumni Association did!

The Alumni Association established the Outstanding Society Award to distinguish societies that demonstrate initiative, exhibit quality, and contribute to the overall participation of alumni in renewing affiliations with their alma mater. Each society may only receive the award once every three years. Notable former recipients include: Society of Advocates, Singing Men of Ohio Society of Alumni and Friends, College of Business Society of Alumni and Friends, and the College of Health and Human Services Society of Alumni and Friends.

The physical award is a plaque and a banner which can be displayed prominently at alumni events, and there is also a \$100 gift card for use in the online Bobcat Store, to use to buy merchandise for promotions and drawings throughout the year.

So, why did we win? In the course of the last year we: maintained and revamped our web presence, expanded into social media, and held programs which took our student staff all over the country, directly to you in both Chicago and LA. We met in Athens for two events, doing a live "town-hall" streaming event with a follow-up podcast, and celebrating the 10-year anniversary of our broadcast stream. The society board meets monthly via conference call, which often drags on into the night, and now we've started publishing our news online and via this newsletter!

As we continue on into the next year, more events are planned including an end of summer picnic and a yet-to-be-determined event over Homecoming weekend.

We hope you'll continue to support ACRN by any means available, whether it's recruiting new students, donating time or equipment, speaking at an ACRN meeting, or just getting to know the current staff and listening. We also hope to see you return at a future event, either in your town, in Ohio, or even in 2011 for the ACRN 40th Anniversary Celebration! (Help us win again, won't you?)

-Matt Latham

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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A summary of ACRN's new business plan

Where Are They Now? Catching up with ACRN alum Eric Britton

What would you like to read in the next issue? Let us know at acrnalumni.com.

Alumni Conference Recap

On May 7th through the 10th, **Ashley Sheehan**, **Matt Latham**, and myself attended the 2009 Ohio University Alumni Association's Alumni Leaders Conference. Thankfully the title was about the only long-winded thing about it.

We walked away with the impression that the ACRN Alumni Society is highly valued by the University... and not just because they handed us a big ol' major award. We really felt our input was valued by the University as well. Between all the fantastic food the University shoveled our way, and time spent with current Rock Lobsters, we did find the time to attend a variety of educational and interactive seminars.

Did you know OU offers career services for alumni? Yup, we get full access to the CareerBeam services, and times being what they are, that's a good tool to have. In fact, they're revamping the on-line alumni portal, and that's going to be one of the big parts of it. We got a walk through of the current alumni site and it's easy to get registered and get in touch with other Alumni organizations and resources... check it out at ohioalumni.org. Get officially registered with the university, with us, with other affiliations you had back in school. Yes, they're going to call you for donations occasionally, but there's a lot of tools and networking to be done as well.

Between seminars on marketing and alumni engagement, learning about the alumni site and, yes, OU Alumni's facebook presence, it all made for a wired conference. Maybe next year they'll issue laptops... (a guy can dream, can't he?)

While Friday was seminar-filled, Saturday featured more serious presentations from the University and open roundtable discussions. The biggest announcement we walked away with is that of "cash." The university is soon

going to be setting up bank accounts for Alumni groups that they'll host. Not only are they going to make it easier to manage resources but they'll also be offering incentives to us to throw great alumni events. Expect raffle prizes, event kits, and funds for future events. Throwing successful events will also EARN us funds from the University. Expect more ACRN Alumni events hosted by us and partnered with larger Alumni organizations

coming up in the near future.

Brainstorming with other organizations gave us lots of bright ideas and new tools as well. For example, July 10th we teamed up with the Mid-Ohio chapter for a Columbus event for new Alumni...it got our name and visibility out there in a big way. As an award-winning mover-and-shaker of an Alumni organization, it simply makes sense for us to take over and rule the Alumni roost! Outside Central Ohio, July 18 will be a big, midwest-wide official ACRN Alumni event in Chicago centered around the Pitchfork Music Festival.

We also got great suggestions to help us keep an organized and energized Executive board. Expect engagement, events, communication, and more Rock Lobster fun. We're going to track down and get more old friends involved and continue getting current Lobsters and those freshly minted alumni involved as well. We're looking forward to a big and bright new year.



Pictured (L to R): Greg Scharer, Matt Latham, Ashley Sheehan, Jay Kulpa, Graham Stewart



- Jay Kulpa

ACRN at Media School Day

On May 7, 2009, the School of Media Arts and Studies presented "Media School Day" – a day full of panel discussions featuring Media (TCom) graduates speaking on a variety of subjects, including "What a Master's Degree Can Do for You," "See What It's Like Out There," "See What You Can Aspire To," and "The Early Academic Career" followed by a screening and QA of I Heart Hip Hop in Morocco. The event was hosted on the third floor of RTV, in the John Ray Memorial Studios adjacent to WOUB, and attended by students, other alumni, and staff alike.

Several ACRN alumni were panel speakers, including

- **Ken Neben**, Director, MSNBC
- **Marah Eakin**, Head of Publicity, Bloodshot Records
- **Bryan Olinger**, Professional Camera Assistant, Los Angeles
- **Meagan Friedman**, Coordinator of Retail Marketing, The Orchard

Alumni/Student Mixer

Due to the convergence of Media School Day and the Ohio University Alumni Leaders Conference, quite a few ACRN alumni and friends happened to be in Athens on Thursday, May 7. Thanks to the quick thinking of ACRN General Manager **Jason Robinaugh**, and the quick-fingered texting of alumni and students alike, a student/alumni mixer was planned on short notice.



The meet-up not only featured attendees of the Leaders Conference, speakers from Media School Day, and current station execs, but also a special guest appearance by Faculty Advisor

Greg Newton. As the night progressed, more alumni and students began to fill the venue (ACRN fave, The Union). All in all, around a dozen alumni and thirty or so students were in attendance. Conversations ran long into the night regarding both ACRN's past and future, creating bonds and forging friendships between the generations.

ACRN.com Stream Turns 10

On March 14, 2009, ACRN celebrated 10 years of online streaming radio by hosting a small reception in the ACRN studios followed by an all-station meeting and potluck dinner at the home of current Music Director **Ty Owen**.

The all-station meeting was well attended, and featured musical performances by ACRN's own talented musicians, appearances by out-of-town alumni and Faculty Advisor **Greg Newton**.



Short speeches by ACRN General Manager **Jason Robinaugh** and Alumni webmaster **Matt Latham** punctuated the evening filled with laughter and good food grilled up by former GM **Jason Wright**.

The event proved to be a great source of networking as Lobsters sought out internships and post-graduation jobs. Business cards were exchanged,

and contacts were made, drawing both alumni and students closer together.

New Society Board Members

After a lengthy election process, and an eventual tie-breaker by the existing Board, the membership at large chose two new Board of Visitors members to serve terms from 2009-2013.

Elections by the general population ended February 1, 2009 with these results:

Jay Kulpa (1997) – 25 votes.

Scott Slonaker (1999) – 18 votes.

Shana Fields (2001) – 18 votes.

Bryan Olinger (2008) – 8 votes.

Michael Frank (2008) – 5 votes.

The current members of the Board of Visitors broke the **Slonaker/Fields** tie during a February meeting. Outgoing members **Marah Eakin** and **Michael Beam** ended their terms in May, and were succeeded by **Kulpa** and **Slonaker**, who will now serve terms from 2009-2013.

Elections for executive positions were during a May board meeting prior to

the OU Alumni Association Leadership Conference, May 7-10. The results of that election ended in the following executive leadership:

Wendy Sheridan, President (2008-2010)

Jay Kulpa, Vice-President & Treasurer (2009-2010)

Kristi Coffin-Dezentje, Secretary (2007-2010)

Officers serve one-year terms. Board members with less than one year left are ineligible to hold executive positions. The Board of Visitors for 2009-2010 includes the above three members as well as newcomer **Slonaker**, former VP **Ashley Sheehan**, former President **Bryan Stroud**, and outgoing members **Victor Roehm** and **Matt Latham** who will end their board tenure in 2010.

If you'd like to be considered for a position on the board, or would like to volunteer to help in any capacity, send an email to info@acrnalumni.com!

ACRN's New Business Plan

Over the last year, ACRN has been working to restructure its business plan, and finalized the document in May 2009. Included here is just a short snippet including the station mission and objectives. To read more, head to http://www.acrn.com/about/ACRN_Business_Plan.pdf

Objectives:

- Increase discipline and incentives and utilize creativity to create a seamlessly professional and appealing product comparable to other Ohio college internet radio stations.
- Bring in guest speakers, research industry standards and legislation, and

keep a list of job openings in order to maximize student education and professional development.

- Continue to build ACRN's presence online and on the Ohio University campus with the goal of doubling listenership between March 2009 and March 2010.
- Build sustainable relationships with other University student organizations and with local high schools.

Mission:

ACRN is a student-run radio and multimedia source that offers opportunities for Ohio University students to acquire knowledge and experience in leadership and professional development.

Where Are They Now?



“Generic Eric” Britton

Once a Rock Lobster, always a Rock Lobster. What are some of your fellow alums doing with themselves? Think of this feature as a station reunion, one person at a time. **Kristi Coffin-Dezentje** got in touch with **Eric Britton** to find out what he’s up to these days:

Name: Eric Britton, aka “Generic Eric”

Age: 45

Positions held at ACRN and years you were there: 82-86. DJ, Assistant Program Director, Program Director. Technical year of graduation 1992.

Current Location: London, England

Current employer: I’m a Network and Systems Administrator for the New York based Private Equity firm Apollo Management. I started working at WXTQ full time in ‘87, then moved back to New York and taught broadcasting at a high school for 9 years before going into the IT field.

In 2006 I started traveling to London to oversee the infrastructure buildout of the firm’s new London office. I stayed on after completion of the project and love living in London. I am reminded of my time in radio every day; I now live right across the street from the BBC Radio 1 studios.

What did you learn from your time at ACRN? Humility. And some people really don’t like New Yorkers. Yeah, I learned that in Ohio.

What is a favorite ACRN

memory? Few that I remember, and even fewer that are suitable for print, I’m sure. I think the things I remember most about ACRN come back to team work—the way everyone got together to solve problems or create something different. RadioActive (the MTV ripoff video show we produced) was the best example of that teamwork. Everyone was involved; everyone contributed.

The Ramones invitation-only promo party we hosted was a lot of fun. Or so I’m told... Anybody have tape on that one? NO. The camera was broken. The producer, whose name I would happily print if I could remember it, forgot to sign out a camera from ACTV-7 and instead took a broken one just for show. We decided to do the interview anyway, knowing it wasn’t being recorded. Most awkward moment in my broadcasting years. I didn’t make it to the show, either. But that’s another story...

Greatest achievement since you

graduated? Not sure how it happened, but I wound up with the most amazing woman you will ever know. All the career stuff means nothing, really. It’s just a job.

What does the future hold for

you? Tough question in this economy. I don’t see myself doing what I do for a living much longer. Eventually I’ll pursue a more creative lifestyle. Or I could be homeless, asking **John McClellan** if he could spare a few bucks.

**GUEST SPEAKERS
NEEDED!**

**Get back to a jock
meeting and
share your
insights!**

ACRN is seeking guest speakers to share valuable advice at our DJ meetings this fall! We’re looking for ACRN alumni that can inform our current staff about trends within radio, media careers, what to expect when entering the work force, life outside of college, or even helpful tips on how to succeed in college and college radio.

Any advice or insight you have will help inspire our DJs. If you would be interested in sharing your wisdom at one of our DJ meetings this fall send Programming Director **Erin Schroettinger** an email at programming@acrn.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 10 - October 1: The ACRN Alumni Society is accepting nominations for board member positions. If you or someone you know feels the need to serve for the 2010-2014 term, let us know at info@acrnalumni.com!

October 1- January 1: ACRN Alumni Society Board of Visitors 2010-2014 elections! Vote online at <https://www.acrnalumni.com/bov>

October 16-18: Homecoming in Athens - Stay tuned for details!
For all upcoming ACRN Alumni events, you can always check out the website at <http://acrnalumni.com/upcoming>

Rock Lobsters Go Hollywood



The social hour get-together for dinner and drinks at former Hollywood hot spot the Formosa Cafe on Friday, May 29, turned out to be a small, intimate event, where the current staffers had time to talk about the changes that happened this year at the station, which included new production equipment, a new exec position, a modified exec position, and the new business plan. After the official event ended, the party moved to alumni **Bryan Olinger** and **Ryan Hertel's** apartment, where even more OU alumni got in the Bobcat spirit.

The May 30 brunch at The Hollywood Corner restaurant was a more raucous affair and drew attention from other OU-affiliated diners as well. Representatives from both the ACRN Alumni Society and the ACRN executive board were on hand to answer questions and make connections with the LA area alumni and discuss upcoming events, station news, and changes in the TCom School (now Media Studies), and to "talk shop" about career futures in the area.

- Matt Latham

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

Put a face to the name by visiting ACRN.com and clicking on DJs/Shows. While you're there, check out the photo galleries and thank your lucky stars there aren't incriminating pictures of you on there.