



The Signet Society Alumni Buzz

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The Signet Society
Alumni Buzz newsletter
aims to connect the over
2,000 Signet Society
Alumni to each other,
and back to the Signet.

Here's to The Society!

–The Signet Society
Alumni
signet@post.harvard.edu

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Upcoming Events

- October 24, 2009. 4–6pm. Signet House, 46 Dunster St., Cambridge. Saturday reception honoring Classes of 1964 and 1979.
- November 2, 2009. 7pm. Hearth Restaurant, New York City. Autumn Dinner with Sherry Pairings. Featuring Fareed Zakaria, writer and political analyst for CNN and Newsweek; Toastmaster Thomas Kelly, Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music and President of the Signet Associates; and Paul Grieco, sommelier and James Beard award winner. [Click here for more information and tickets.](#)
- November 5, 2009. 6–8pm. Location TBD, in Seattle, WA. Cocktails for Signet alumni in Seattle area.
- November 19, 2009. 7–9pm. Marylebone, London. Cocktails at flat of Tom Moore '98 for Signet Society members.

- November/December, 2009. TBA. Cocktails for Signet alumni in San Francisco area.
- November/December, 2009. TBA. Cocktails for Signet alumni in Los Angeles area.
- December 4, 2009. 5–7pm. Signet House, 46 Dunster St., Cambridge. Alumni Tea, with unveiling of Pechet portrait.
- April 24, 2010. Kirkland House, Cambridge. Annual Dinner, celebrating the Signet's 140th Anniversary.

Would you like to organize a Signet event in your city? Email signet@post.harvard.edu for help getting started.

[Click here to view other upcoming and recent events.](#)

Recent News

See our [online Member Library](#) for recently published books, music and films by Signet Society members, alumni, and associates.

In addition, we congratulate the following alumni (more information documented on the Signet Facebook page):

- Month-long residency of “Follow the Wheelbarrow” in Times Square, New York, by Jess Burkle ‘06
- Release of “Hump Day: The Movie”, co-produced by Steven Schardt ‘95
- Release of “The Windmill Movie,” Directed, Written, Edited by Alexander Olch ‘99
- Release of first podcast from Berkshire Review of the Arts, posted by Michael Miller ‘70

Featured Drones



***Richard
Smithies, AB
'57, LLB '60***

While trying to make myself like the law, I worked

for a Wall Street firm, and in my spare time at the office (of which there was lots!) I began to write my first mystery story, which was followed by six other books, and a lot of plays. However, I never made any money out of them, so, to survive, I had to rely on a hereditary aptitude for languages, which caused me to be employed as a translator for the annual reports of some of the most prestigious European companies. My adventures with languages started with a major in Classics and Literature at Harvard. For my sophomore tutorial, I was supposed to read a book of the *Odyssey* every week, but I cheated and used Lang, Leaf and Myers, for which I've always felt guilty, so I've tried to make up for it by reading a lot of Homer and other authors in Greek... [Click to read more](#)



***Taya Weiss, AB
'99***

I conduct research on illicit weapons and counterfeit pharmaceutical trafficking. For the United Nations Office

on Drugs and Crime, I attempted to quantify the volume and value of the illicit trade in guns and ammunition, and counterfeit anti-malarial and anti-infective drugs into West Africa. I have been a research consultant in the human security field since 2002, conducting fieldwork in many parts of Africa.

My memoir-in-progress has the working title "Open Door Blue Sky". It is primarily about skydiving, which I have done more than 1400 times since 2002, and the choice to embrace a high-risk life. The story explores what happens when the consequences of risk materialize, and how (or whether) that changes things... [Click to read more](#)

Undergraduate Officers

The undergraduate officers this year are as follows:

Noah Silver '10, President

Becky Cooper '10, Vice President

Matt Bohrer '10, Secretary

Katie Schick '10, Treasurer

Megan Amram '10, Librarian

Past Officer

Identification

Please help us re-create our records of previous Signet undergraduate officers.

[Click here to view current records.](#)

From the Archives

"Inside the Signet Society: A Small Group of Students Finds Conversation, Faculty Contact And Strawberries at the College's Artistic and Literary Club."

Published in The Harvard Crimson on Wednesday, March 18, 1992. [Click here to read the article.](#)

Update Contact

Information

The Signet gets all contact info from the Harvard Alumni Association database. To change your contact information or opt in/out of communications, please visit <http://post.harvard.edu> and click on "Update Your Profile."

To The Society

Share Your News.

Did you know about all the ways to connect back to the Signet Society community of artists, musicians, writers, thinkers and adventuresome souls? Take a moment to join our sites (website, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter) and share your news-- publications, openings, performances, appointments, launches, new coordinates, etc. Our community depends on your participation and willingness to update us on creative enterprises. [Click here for information on sharing your news.](#)

Get Involved.

Become a Signet class captain, help organize a regional alumni event, contribute to the newsletter, join a sub-committee of The Signet Society Alumni... we need your assistance. For more information on alumni activities, email signet@post.harvard.edu.

Donate.

Much of the future health of the Society depends on members and alumni; and that begins with us. Please consider making a contribution to The Signet. If you'd like to make a contribution at any time, please send us a check, or [click here to donate online.](#)