



# MINNESOTA CHAPTER NEWS



February 2006

Volume 18, No. 1

## ***PSU NIGHT OUT!***

### ***Annual Dinner on Saturday, February 25***

Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, February 25th for the PSU Night Out (formerly known as the Annual Dinner). This is a chance to have a night out on the town, eat good food, connect with other local Penn Staters and bid on fun auction items that support the Scholarship Fund.

This year's PSU Night Out will be held at Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove. The evening will consist of great food and drink, good fun and a silent auction to raise scholarship money for Penn Staters from Minnesota.

We hope you will be able to join us for a fun evening and an opportunity to recall your college days and celebrate the success of the 2005 Nittany Lion football team. Rush Creek is renowned for its wonderful food in an ideal setting overlooking the award winning golf course. If you have never attended our annual night out, this is a great opportunity to get acquainted with fellow Nittany Lions living in the area. The night

always proves to be fun and memorable, so come be part of the tradition!

As in past years, you may also renew your membership dues on your PSU Night Out RSVP form (see insert) and make a contribution to the Chapter Scholarship Fund.

There's something for everyone at this year's PSU Night Out!

**WHAT: PSU ANNUAL DINNER**  
**WHEN: SATURDAY, FEB. 25**  
**WHERE: RUSH CREEK GC**  
**TIME: 6:00 – 9:00 PM**



## ***PENN STATE FOOTBALL - BIG TEN, ORANGE BOWL CHAMPS!***

The Richfield Champps (790 W 66th Street) was the host venue for our TV tailgate gatherings for the second straight year. Champps provided our group with its own section of the restaurant, and was able to air all of Penn State's games, including the Central Michigan game, which was a FSN-Pittsburgh exclusive.

A 10-1 season and Big Ten Championship resulted in consistently larger attendance over 2004. We averaged 20 people per game this fall. Also, for the second straight year, we were joined by some of the Purdue Alumni for the Lions' game against the Boilermakers.

PSU Alumni gathered one last time at Champps for the 2006 FedEx Orange Bowl on January 3rd. The turn-out was strong considering the timing of the game, but what a great game it was!

Join your PSU friends next year and get ready for a fantastic 2006.

### **PSU 2006 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:**

- September 6 - **Akron**
- September 9 - at Notre Dame
- September 16 - **Youngstown State**
- September 23 - at Ohio State
- September 30 - **Northwestern (Varsity Day)**
- October 7 - at Minnesota
- October 14 - **Michigan**
- October 21 - **Illinois (Homecoming)**
- October 28 - at Purdue
- November 4 - at Wisconsin
- November 11 - **Temple**
- November 18 - **Michigan State**



## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

2005 has been a great year for Penn State. The football team's resurgence has been remarkable and three of our other fall teams - men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball - also won their respective conference titles, putting PSU in second place in the NACDA Directors Cup (formerly Sears Cup) standings. The university as a whole has flourished with new buildings sprouting up on campus and a very successful fundraising campaign completed.

In Minnesota, the Penn State chapter has also flourished. Despite losing our president, Tara Wyckoff, to a job transfer with the university in April, we have managed to have a terrific year. We would like to offer special thanks to Tara for all of her hard work and wonderful contributions and wish the best of luck to her, Dirk and Amelia on their new life in State College. *(Ed. note: See the latest issue of The Penn Stater magazine for an article about Tara's new position with the Alumni Association!)*

We hosted many terrific events and the attendance was great. We have had many alums move to the area and they have already joined us at many of our events. We began in February with our annual Penn State Night Out in Dinkytown. Jeff McManus arranged for a wine tasting event that was a big hit for one and all. In April, we had a great turnout for Habitat for Humanity. In August, we had our summer picnic which included a moonwalk and a visit from the Plymouth Fire Company. It was great fun for kids and adults alike. In the fall, Aaron Hofstedt hosted our football "tailgates" at Champps in Richfield. With the success of the team, the turnouts were fantastic.

As many of you know, the purpose of the chapter is to raise scholarship money for Minnesotans that attend Penn State. Please see Kathryn Jakuc's column for details about our scholarships. This year, our scholarships were named for Danny Johnson, son of Craig and Connie Johnson. Danny was killed in July, 2004 so the scholarships are an ongoing tribute to him.

We are looking forward to a great 2006. We are planning an evening boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka in June to be added to our calendar of events. In addition to the big game at Notre Dame on September 9th, the football team will be playing at Wisconsin and at Minnesota this season.

If you are interested in joining the chapter, please complete the enclosed form and send it in to Mick Kuban. We hope to see you at the annual dinner on February 25th.

We are Penn State!

John Barbella



## **MINNESOTA CHAPTER PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2005 -2006**

<http://www.psumn.com>

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## ***BIG TEN ALUMNI SOFTBALL RECAP***

Our faithful softball players showed up to play in the Annual Alan Page Softball Tournament. Once again we were lucky to have another beautiful day for the tournament. The tournament, held every year on the last Saturday in August, raises money for the Alan Page Foundation which gives out scholarships.

Hoping to build on last year's momentum we took the field in the 1st game against the University of Iowa. With the help of two orphaned players from Purdue we were able to take care of Iowa with no problems.

In the second game of the day, we went up against the perennial powerhouse, Indiana. Once again Indiana proved to be a thorn in our sides, handing us a lopsided defeat.

The third and final game for Penn State was against the maize and blue of Michigan. The game was a close one, coming down to the final inning to be decided. Unfortunately, another victory was not in the cards for the crew from PSU.

In addition to the familiar faces, we had six new alumni turnout for the game. We look forward to seeing them all again!

Mark your calendars for the 2006 Alan Page Softball Tournament, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 26th.

## ***2005 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RECAP***

The MN Chapter assisted Habitat for Humanity again for our annual spring service project. The past two years we were at actual Habitat home jobsites and mostly did painting or finishing work. This time we worked at the Habitat warehouse, assembling framing for future Habitat homes. Habitat completes all of their frames at the warehouse and then trucks them to the jobsite for final assembly.

Turnout for the event was good, with 18 volunteers, including one future homeowner and five Purdue friends whom we met at a tailgate party; they have a relatively small Twin Cities contingent, and asked if they could join us. We escaped relatively unscathed, except for one Penn Stater whose thumb couldn't stay out of the path of the hammer, but at least we made it through the day without having to call 911. We completed about 3/4 of a house, which was extremely good for a one-day session.

Stay tuned for details about this year's service project opportunities!

## ***MINNESOTA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND***

Thanks to the generosity of our Chapter members, we were able to award a total of \$1,500 in scholarships to two Penn State students this summer. The scholarship recipients were selected based on their GPAs, campus involvement and essays detailing how their Penn State experience will help them make a difference in their communities.

A review committee comprised of selected Chapter Board members reviewed, rated and ranked the submitted applications in order to select the two strongest candidates. The recipients of this year's MN Chapter Alumni Association Scholarship awards were **Gregory Rybka of St. Paul**, and **Rachael Mortensen of Kenyon**. These remarkable young people should reassure us that our future, and the Penn State future, is in good hands!

Congratulations to Gregory and Rachael! We wish them continued success in their endeavors at Penn State and beyond.

## ***2006 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE***

In addition to participating in our Habitat for Humanity event, or taking in a football game or two with the club, we'd love to have you help out on this year's Scholarship Committee.

This is a great way to see what the future of Penn State holds—straight from the students themselves. The time commitment is minimal and most of your work is done through e-mail. We need people to help get the word out about our scholarship for Penn State students from MN, as well as people to help read the applications and select a winner.

For more information, contact Emily Zuber at [emilypsu10@hotmail.com](mailto:emilypsu10@hotmail.com). The scholarship committee usually begins in late spring.



## ***STAY CONNECTED!***

Contact Brian Binkley at  
binkley@psualum.com to be added to  
our email list-serv today so you don't  
miss out on any Chapter activities!

Email Brian today!

# ***BECOME A MINNESOTA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBER! SEE THE ENCLOSED FORM TO FIND OUT HOW!***

**MN Chapter Penn State Alumni Association  
c/o Mick Kuban  
1256 Bucher Avenue  
Shoreview, MN 55126**

**Be sure to sign up for our e-newsletter!  
E-mail PSU-MN-Alumni-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu to be added to our e-database.  
Contact Brian Binkley for more information at binkley@psualum.com.**

# PSU NIGHT OUT RESERVATION FORM & MN CHAPTER PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join us for dinner! The evening will consist of fabulous food and a cash bar.  
As always, we will have a Silent Auction that will benefit our Scholarship Fund. The night always proves to be fun and memorable, so come be part of the tradition.

## ANNUAL DINNER

**DATE:** SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005

**TIME:** 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**PRICE:** \$45-\$50

**LOCATION:** RUSH CREEK GOLF COURSE

7801 TROY LANE (CNTY RD. 101)

MAPLE GROVE, MN 55311

**RSVP: TO MICK KUBAN BY FEBRUARY 11TH**

Name(s) applying for membership \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues (\$25 per household) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: special priority will be given to members for all future sporting event ticket sales—be sure to become a member now!

Primary Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of those attending Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

## MENU SELECTIONS (PLEASE CHECK ONE AND INDICATE NUMBER OF ENTREES PER SELECTION)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Minnesota Chicken (\$45)** - Seasoned sautéed breast of chicken, served on wild rice mashed potatoes. Topped with Sherry cream sauce and served with julienne vegetable medley.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Crab Stuffed Walleye (\$45)** - Canadian Walleye with crabmeat stuffing, topped with a champagne sauce. Served with Minnesota wild rice pilaf, and green beans with red and yellow peppers.

\_\_\_\_\_ **New York Strip (\$50)** - 10-ounce grilled strip topped with onion straws and chipotle Béarnaise, served with roasted Yukon Gold potatoes and julienne vegetable medley.

(Each item includes bread. A glass of house wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served before dinner. There will also be a cash bar.)

Scholarship Fund Contributions (direct gift to Scholarship Fund): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Minnesota Chapter—PSAA, and mail this and your Election Ballot to:  
Mick Kuban, 1256 Bucher Avenue, Shoreview, MN 55126 by February 4.

**Please fill out the Chapter Board Election Ballot on the other side!**

# CANDIDATES FOR CHAPTER BOARD POSITIONS:

## CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT:

### JOHN BARBELLA - INCUMBENT

Originally from Glenside, PA., graduated in 1989 with a B.S. in Real Estate. John and his wife, Suzanne (1990 B.S. from PSU), moved to Plymouth in 1995. They have three children, (Jack, Lindsey and Lucy) and remain very involved with Penn State, as Suzanne's Dad has been with the university for over 40 years. John has served on the board for four years and became president in 2005.

## CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

### MARILYN BINKLEY

Marilyn grew up right here in the Twin Cities, attending Wayzata High School, only to go east for college and earn a Bachelor of Science in Art Education (Schools Option) with a minor in Art History in December, 2004 from Penn State. Upon graduation, she returned "home" to Minnesota to marry her Nittany Lion sweetheart, Brian Binkley, on June 10, 2005.

While at Penn State, Marilyn was a founding sister of Kappa Gamma Phi, a service sorority, and served as Treasurer and President. Marilyn was also a member of the Pennsylvania Art Education Association, serving as Vice President and Treasurer of the Student Chapter. When not busy cheering on her beloved Nittany Lions (and #21, Alan Zemaitis), she is busy substituting at the Wayzata and Osseo School Districts and tutoring students after school.

## BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER OF THE MN CHAPTER OF THE PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We are always looking for a few true-blue Penn Staters to join our Board. The more people involved in the Board, the more diverse the ideas and events that are generated.

If you're looking for a small way that you can contribute, this could be a great opportunity for you. The general responsibility of a Board Member is to attend the six Board Meetings held throughout the year. During these one-hour meetings, our group discusses upcoming events and generate ideas for new events that can help meet the needs of the 1,000+ Penn Staters in Minnesota. We ask that Board Members attend as many functions as possible, but we all understand that time is our most precious commodity these days, so contribute in any way that you can!

## MN CHAPTER PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT

### PRESIDENT:

John Barbella

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Marilyn Binkley

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW BOARD MEMBER:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW CANDIDATES FOR BOARD MEMBER:

If you are interested in getting involved in the planning for Chapter events, write in your name on this form with your contact information. Election results will be announced at our annual meeting in February.