



Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association Update

JANUARY 2009

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2009 Football Schedule:

09/05/09 – Akron
09/12/09 vs Syracuse
09/19/09 vs. Temple
09/26/09 vs. Iowa (All- University/Varsity “S” Day)
10/03/09 at Illinois
10/10/09 vs Eastern Illinois
10/17/09 vs. Minnesota (Homecoming)
10/24/09 at Michigan
10/31/09 at Northwestern
11/07/09 vs Ohio State
11/14/09 vs. Indiana
11/21/09 at Michigan State

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Penn Staters, I hope this message finds you well. The Minnesota Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association has had a very busy and exciting year! I am proud to announce that we were once again named a Chapter of Distinction – this is the second year in a row and it could not happen without the support and participation from all of you.

We had many great activities going on this past year, and I want to touch on a few highlights. In April we once again participated in Feed My Starving Children, a great service event for our chapter! Look for more information about it on the inside, and how to participate this year.

In the summer we had some great events, my favorite two being the freshman send-off picnic and the Big Ten Softball

tourney in August. Mike and Sarah Houle were gracious enough to hold the picnic at their house and it was great having time during our busy summer schedules to catch up and meet fellow PSU alum, students and their families. The softball tournament was a blast, and this comes from someone who can hardly swing a bat. We didn’t win, but as always we had fun trying. I really think 2009 will be our year!

The football season starting off with a bang, and was a wild ride the whole way. Our chapter secured 40 tickets to the Ohio State game and those of us who made the trek to Columbus got to watch a great game. It really was worth the 24 hours of driving that many of us did that week-end. During the football season, we had a raffle drawing for a personally autographed Jo Pa football

which raised \$625 for our scholarship fund. With the price of education steadily rising (and having been an out of state student myself,) I am very passionate about finding ways to raise funds to help support Minnesota students attending PSU.

The football season ended as the New Year began, and while I’m sure we would have all enjoyed a Rose Bowl win, I still can’t help but be proud of what the team accomplished this year and the amount of class they used to do it.

I hope 2009 is a great year for you all and I hope to see you at many events this year! 🍷

For the Glory

Marilyn Binkley

Marilyn Binkley ‘04
president@psumn.com

Stay tuned throughout the year with our website and email listserv for information regarding the 2009 Fall Football Road trip. Its bound to be an exciting trip!

2008 Football TV Tailgate Summary

2008 provided a very entertaining Penn State football season. Majors Sports Café in Golden Valley hosted our group for all 12 regular season games.

We capped off the season with a Rose Bowl viewing



party at Dave and Buster's in Maple Grove. While the game outcome momentarily damped our enthusiasm, the team exceeded expectations for the year with a top 10 ranking and spoofed Sports Illustrated which predicted at the beginning of the season that Penn State would not finish in the top 20.

With each passing weekend, we added fun elements to transform our section at Major's into an

authentic Beaver stadium experience. If you attended a game, you probably bounced to Zombie Nation on momentum changing plays, heard the stadium-like lion roar, clapped along to the blue band playing the fight song when we scored a touchdown and shouted "PENN STATE!" in response to our mighty cheerleaders leading the way with "WE ARE!" The Nittany Lion even joined us for the second half of the year as we

counted push-ups and passed him (or her!) through the "stands."

Our TV tailgate football gatherings are a cornerstone of our annual activity agenda and a great way to get to know fellow Penn Staters – both adopted and graduates.

If you have any comments about our TV tailgates, please contact Aaron Hofstedt at achof@hotmail.com. 

Feed My Starving Children Recap


On Saturday, April 26th, 2008 25 Penn Staters participated in the packing of nutritious meals from 9-11am at the Feed My Starving Children facility in Chanhassen. After watching a short video and listening to a talk explaining how the charity was under increased strain due to skyrocketing rice prices due to global

shortages, everyone donned stylish hairnets, aprons, and gathered for a group picture.

For an hour and a half, we all packed as many meals as we could while talking and meeting new people from around the area. At the end of the session we had successfully packed thousands of bags that

would be shipped around the globe to provide a delicious, nutritious meals to children who are normally given one "meal" a day, with that meal often times being a mudpie, which is exactly what it sounds like!

The PSAA of MN will once again be participating in this activity as our

community outreach this spring. On **April 25, 2009** from 9-11am we will be working at the Brooklyn Park facility (located at the intersection of CR-81 and 694). We have 30 spaces to fill, so if you are interesting in participating please email Sarah at vicepresident@psualum.com to reserve your spot! 

Annual Summer BBQ / Freshman Send-Off

On August 3rd, over 40 Penn State Alumni and students gathered at the home of Mike & Sarah Houle in Golden Valley for the Annual BBQ and Freshman Send-Off. The skies threatened rain all


day, but not a sprinkle was felt as everyone enjoyed good food, good friends, and lawn games.

The freshman scholarship winner was announced as Steven Sherwood



Above: Mike flipping burgers.

(Rochester, MN) and while he was unable to be

present at the BBQ, his mother drove the whole way up from Rochester to meet everyone and thank the club for the scholarship. Congratulations to Steven and to all the others who applied! 

Annual Night Out on the Town / Silent Auction

Come join us in celebrating our Chapter being named a Chapter of Distinction for 2008 at the Penn State Alumni Association of Minnesota Annual Night Out & Silent Auction with Special Guest Speaker Mr. Tom Palchak (PSU Creamery Manager) and a *PSU Creamery Ice Cream Social*.

ANNUAL DINNER

DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

TIME: 5:00PM – 8:00PM

MEAL: APPETIZER, SALAD, PASTA & CHICKEN ENTRÉE

PRICE: \$30 PER PSAA-MN MEMBER / \$40 PER NON-MEMBER

LOCATION: BIAGGI'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO

8251 FLYING CLOUD DR #3010

EDEN PRAIRE, MN 55344

RSVP: TO SARAH HOULE AT vicepresident@psumn.com

NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 21, 2009.

Candidates for Chapter Board Positions:

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER:

Christopher Shearer

Chris is originally from Butler, PA and graduated from Penn State Behrend in May of 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. At Behrend, Chris had a successful career playing catcher on the University's baseball team. Currently Chris resides in Plymouth with his wife Melissa. Chris works for General Mills as a Senior Financial Analyst and volunteers as an assistant baseball coach at Wayzata High School. Chris previously served on the Board before a temporary 3 year leave to the South.

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY:

Brian Binkley

Brian has been serving on the board for over six years. He has been involved with many chapter activities including the annual dinner, football roadtrips, freshmen-seniors and the annual softball Tournament. Brian is probably most well known however as the "email guy". He has been responsible for our Chapter website and managing all aspects of our email listserv.

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER:

Mick Kuban

Mick graduated in 1970 with a B.S. in Accounting. His wife Jane is a 1971 graduate. They have three children, with the youngest, Ben, a senior in 2009-2010. Along with being a seven year member of our Chapter Board, Mick has also previously served on the Little Lakes Little League Board. Mick has previously served terms as Membership Chairman and Treasurer.

Michael Houle

Mike, originally from Leicester, MA, graduated in 2003 with a B.S. in Political Science with a minor in Psychology. Mike and his wife, Sarah, live in Golden Valley with their four dogs. As a current Board Member, Mike took over the Scholarship committee in 2008. Mike is also a member of the professional society of Paralegals, Lambda Epsilon Chi.

NOTE: Voting ballot on back half of this page.

Penn State Alumni Association-Minnesota Chapter Membership Form

Please fill out the **entire form** and send it, along with your payment, to

Mick Kuban 1256 Bucher Ave Shoreview MN 55126

Checks should be made payable to Minnesota Chapter-PSAA

Membership runs July 1st, 2009 through June 30th, 2010

Chapter Membership Dues

Already a member?

Renew your membership thru June 30th 2010 for \$25 per family

Not a member yet?

Start your membership immediately for only \$35 per family

Membership runs from time we receive payment until June 30th 2010

Areas of Interest-Please check all that apply

Sports-Related Activities

- Golf Outing
- PSU Away Football Game Trip
- Twins Baseball Game
- PSU Football TV Party
- Wild or Gopher Hockey Game
- PSU Away Men's Basketball Game
- Ski Trip
- Canoe Trip

Culturally-Enriching Activities

- Theatre
- Night at the Races
- Casino Night
- Wine Tasting Party
- Minnesota Zoo

Community Service Activities

- Relay for Life
- Blood Drive
- Adopt-A-Highway

Member Information

First Name:

Spouse First Name:

Last Name:

Spouse Last Name:

Major:

Major:

Graduation Year:

Graduation Year:

Email:

Email:

Home Address:

Home Phone:

Member Occupation:

Spouse Occupation:

Member Employer:

Spouse Employer:

please check here if you wish to be in the Directory

New Family Membership (\$35) _____

Renew Family Membership (\$25) _____

Scholarship Donation _____

Annual Dinner Tickets Members (\$30 ea) _____

Annual Dinner Ticketers Non- Members (\$40 ea) _____

Total Check to Minnesota Chapter-PSAA

\$

PSAA-MN ELECTION BALLOT:

Treasurer:(Vote for one)

Christopher Shearer

Write-In _____

Secretary: (Vote for one)

Brian Binkley

Write-In _____

Board Member: (Vote up to four)

Mick Kuban

Mike Houle

Write-In _____

Write-In _____

Big Ten Softball Tournament

Once again, our faithful softball players showed up to play in the Annual Alan Paige Softball Tournament.

We got off to a rocky start (mainly due to the fact that the webmaster distributed the wrong address and thus not everyone made it on time) and ended up losing a very close game to Ohio State/Wisconsin. A team full of Lions in the lineup for the second game easily won over Iowa.

The third game was close, but we still ended up losing to Indiana

(who only had 3 Alumni on their team!!!)

Unfortunately due to the tie breaker rules, Penn State did not make the afternoon playoffs. We are eagerly looking forward to revenge next year! 🍌



Scholarship Endowment

The Penn State Endowment Stewardship Report for 2007-08 was recently released by the University. The report contains the current financial information regarding the Chapter's scholarship endowment fund and how it has and will continue to grow.

The book value of the endowment fund on June 20, 2008 was \$39,334.69. In 2007-08, the Chapter added gifts in the amount of \$1800 to the endowment.

Penn State anticipates

that \$1,800.00 will be available for spending in 2008-09. This will allow us to continue to award \$1500 scholarships while steadily increasing our overall funds.

To quote the report, "Penn State's diversified endowment portfolio continues to be appropriately invested for long-term growth and sustainable spending."

We thank everyone for their steady support in our on-going efforts to support our local Nittany Lions. 🍌

Social Networking on the Web

This past year has been exciting for our presence on the internet. We have introduced two social networking tools for our local Alumni as a means to keep in touch with friends of old and meet new colleagues.

The first I'd like to share is LinkedIn. The purpose of the site is to allow registered users to maintain a list of contact details of people they know and trust in business. The people in the list are called *Connections*. Users can invite anyone (whether a site user or not) to become a connection. LinkedIn is consid-

ered to be more of a professional social networking tool.

Our second site is Facebook. Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use Facebook to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.

For additional information on how to join, visit our web-site at www.psumn.com. 🍌

Local PSU Sporting Events

April 16 – 18: Men's NCAA gymnastics championships is right here in your own backyard!! Coach Randy Jepson, 2008 Big 10 Coach of the Year, is sure to have the team positioned as contender for the Big 10 championship and an eventual NCAA record 13th national title. NCAA All-Around and Big Ten Champion Casey Sandey is back for his senior season.

April 18 – 19: Softball PSU finished 34-22 last year and is taking on a competitive schedule in 2009. Cross your fingers for some warm weather and show the team some love from the Twin Cities Nittany Nation!

WEB SITE for ticket information:

www.gophersports.com

Any questions or suggestions may be directed to Nancy Hammond at nlh4@hotmail.com



Notable Upcoming 2009 Events

March 1 – PSU Night Out on the Town
featuring Ice Cream Social/ Silent Auction

April 25 – Feed My Starving
Children Service Project

August – Summer BBQ/Freshman Send-Off

Big Ten softball tournament

September – 2009 PSU Football!



Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association
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