



# Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association Update

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Penn Staters,

As I reflect back on this past year, I am amazed at the accomplishments made by our Chapter. Starting with our Annual Night Out on the Town and Silent Auction, I am constantly in awe of the generosity of our members. We are consistently able to not only raise enough to maintain our scholarship to a local student attending PSU, but also continue to add to our endowment so that as tuition increases, we are able to provide more financially to those attending our great university.

We once again participated in Feed My Starving Children as our annual service event which is a great family event. In May, we received word from the Alumni Association that our Chapter had won the "2009 Fellowship and Networking" award. This award recognized us on a national level (and came with a \$500 check to the Chapter!).

The freshman picnic was a great success once

again. We had many students and families attend. I was told by several parents how nice it was to meet alumni and the families of other students.

Football season started in September and we began our annual TV tailgate football parties at the Medina Entertainment Center.

In October, members of the chapter headed out in the snow to the Homecoming game against Minnesota. Our chapter marched in the Parade and won the award for best "Out of State Chapter" (another \$500 check!).

I recently had the pleasure of celebrating with 50+ Penn Staters at our Capitol One Bowl Party on New Year's Day. What a great way to end the year (or start it, pending your viewpoint).

For those of you who have not been previously active with Chapter events, I encourage you to attend one of our many activities throughout the year. The best way to keep in touch with our

upcoming events is to sign-up for our listserv at [www.psumn.com](http://www.psumn.com).

As my time as President comes to an end, I want to thank all of the members for supporting our Chapter and participating in all of these events (and more) throughout the year. I also want to thank a wonderful Board that helps coordinate and prepare everything we do. Without their help, support, and dedication, the Chapter would not be where it is today. I will be staying on the Board as Past President and would love to hear any input you have on other events you are interested in, or feedback you have on current events. *This is your Chapter* and we value your input. ☺

For the Glory

*Marilyn Binkley*

Marilyn Binkley '04  
[info@psumn.com](mailto:info@psumn.com)

JANUARY 2010

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### Insert:

Dinner/Membership Form

### 2010 Football Schedule:

09/04/10 vs Youngstown State
09/11/10 at Alabama
09/18/10 vs. Kent State
09/25/10 vs. Temple
10/02/10 at Iowa
10/09/10 vs Illinois
10/16/10 – Bye Week
10/23/10 at Minnesota
10/30/10 vs Michigan
11/06/10 vs Northwestern
11/13/10 at Ohio State
11/20/10 vs Indiana
11/27/10 vs Michigan State

Stay tuned throughout the year with our website and email listserv for information regarding the 2010 Fall Football Road trip.

# 2009 Football TV Tailgates



Fall came, and with it so did football season (the best time of the year). We switched our viewing location this year and held our TV tailgates at Medina Entertainment Center . If you haven't been to a viewing party, we suggest you try to get out to some next year. We have our own personal DJ that brings in all the music

that you would hear at Beaver Stadium and we pass the Lion after touchdowns (sometimes he even does pushups). It really is as close to Happy Valley as you can get in Minnesota.

In October 2010, the Nittany Lions will return to the Twin Cities for their first gridiron battle at the new Gopher Stadium, TCF Bank. 

## Scholarship Endowment

The Penn State Endowment Stewardship Report for 2008-09 was recently released by the University. This report contains the current financial health of the Chapter's scholarship endowment fund.

During 2008-09, the Chapter added \$1513.00 to the endowment. The book value of the endowment fund on June 30, 2009 was \$43,928.18.

Penn State anticipates that \$2,400 will be avail-

able for spending in 2009-10. This will allow us to continue to award \$2000.00 scholarships while increasing our overall funds.

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



## Feed My Starving Children Recap

On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 25 Penn Staters volunteered to pack nutritious meals from 9-11am at Feed My Starving Children in Brooklyn Park. 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 successfully packed thousands of bags that would be shipped around the globe to

## Board Member News

We are sad to announce that three Board Members moved away this past year.

Shortly after becoming Treasurer, Chris Shearer learned he would be moving to Tennessee in July. He and Melissa had their first child, Cole, in November.

Diane Maleski, a long time Board Member and Past-President, relo-

cated to South Carolina in August.

Nancy Hammond has moved to the Rochester/Winona area. She is reaching out to local Alumni. Her email is: [nlh4@hotmail.com](mailto:nlh4@hotmail.com).

Nancy enjoyed leading Nittany Lion push-up and blanket toss cheers after every score!

All will be missed! 

## Fellowship & Networking

During the Fall 2009 Alumni Association Volunteers Awards Banquet, our chapter was awarded with the Fellowship & Networking Award – a grant of \$500 was included with the recognition.

"The Minnesota Chapter has adopted a multi-pronged approach that includes communications, events and education. Chapter members and alumni are

connected electronically through a Listserv, Facebook, LinkedIn and a hard-copy newsletter. They also connect through Happy Hour events, TV Tailgate Viewing Parties, community service, a Big Ten Alumni Softball Tournament and a Penn State Minnesota Annual Night Out on the Town." - *PSAA Alumni Insider, December* 

provide delicious and nutritious meals to children who are normally given 1 "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 24, 2010** from 9-11am we will be working at the new Coon Rapids location. We have 30 spaces to fill, so if you are interested in participating, please email Sarah Houle at [vicepresident@psualum.com](mailto:vicepresident@psualum.com) to reserve your spot! 

# Annual Summer BBQ / Freshman Send-Off

On August 2nd, roughly forty-five Penn State Alumni and Students from as far as Duluth 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 it held off long enough for everyone to enjoy good food, good friends, and lawn games.

The Daniel S. Johnson scholarship winner was announced that day as well—congratulations to Rachel Kane of Coon Rapids, MN. Unfortunately Rachel was out of the country so she was not able

to receive her recognition in person, but everyone in the Alumni Association wishes her well & congratulations on representing Minnesota students at Penn State. 



## Alumni Homecoming Parade -October 16, 2009

Who would have thought that snow would put a damper on a home coming weekend at Penn State? A mere 8" of the wet stuff and everyone was complaining. In contrast, we get the same amount here in Minnesota and we start thinking should I shovel or get the snow blower out? A hearty dozen of us cold hardened Minnesotans laughed the whole thing off. Stop us from enjoying the festivities? Never! We met behind the Intramural building just between East halls and the stadium parking lot. The field was wet with snow and started to get a little muddy from the parade members. The sun was setting, the skies were gray and a cool breeze was blowing across campus. The temperature was just below freezing. We were anxious to start and warm up with the march.

The alumni group gathered and proudly unveiled our chapter flag. The Binkley's had driven out their Saturn Sky sports convertible with its personalized Minnesota License plate, PSU SKY. Brian had the tough job of driving in his first parade with the reigning Miss Pennsylvania International, Jordyn Colao as a passenger. Yeah Brian, think that will ever happen again? Lucky guy!

Marilyn lead the group carrying the chapter banner while the rest of us carried small posters with the other Minnesota Personalized Plates proudly displayed: GO PSU, PENN ST, JOE PAW, PENNST8 etc.

We marched down Bigler, turned right on Pol-

lock, left on Shortlidge and right on to E. College Ave making our turn at McLanahan's following a van that blasted "We are Penn State" over and over during the entire march.

The gentle snow fall drifted down with each step. Darkness had descended. We were illuminated by the street lights of E. College Avenue and the headlights of the vehicles in the parade. The streets were lined by people of all ages cheering and waving as we passed. We handed out candy to the little and big kids along the way to celebrate the holiday type spirit. As we made our way on the final turn up Burrows, the parade group slowly dispersed.

Marilyn & Brian Binkley and Julie & Matt Fisher attended a Post-Homecoming Parade Event at the Hintz Alumni Center afterwards. Much to our surprise, we were awarded a \$500 check for demonstrating Penn State spirit and pride through the Homecoming Parade as the "Best Out-Of-State Chapter."

A few of us stayed along the road with our sign "We're from Minnesota but were Smart Enough to choose Penn State." Standing there we were met with high fives and cheers from folks on the Fraternity and Sorority floats. The Blue Band broke form and a few members march around us. The Nittany Lion came up and gave our one stu-

dent in the group, Kelly Gordon a big hug. After another 30 minutes or so the parade ended. It was definitely a magical and special day to remember. 



## Homecoming Game - October 17, 2009

We had to wait three years for the next Penn State/Minnesota football game and this year as chance had it the game was scheduled for Homecoming Weekend at Penn State. In the days leading up to the game, State College received one of its heaviest snow falls ever in October. The Homecoming Snow Bowl of 2009 was an utterly delightful day. The sky was a nice battleship grey, the wind was calm and thousands of Penn State faithful fans marched down Curtain after trying to find buses to drop them off on campus. The stadium did not permit parking on the grass due to the 8" of snowfall that caused power outages and soggy fields. Tailgating was curtailed to Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Loews and any other scrap of concrete that would allow parking. Throngs of patrons were figuring out how to ride the bus system to campus.

As the game approached, the Blue Band marched up University onto Curtain dressed in their blue and white and filed into the stadium. By kickoff most of the student section, EA, was empty due to slow processing of the new ticket system at the Junior/Senior gates. The band was not allowed to march on the field, so the Alumni Blue Band in the north section and the Blue Band in the south section played back and forth Penn State favorites. The Minnesota alumni section was represented in section NL (Nosebleed Level). We huddled to keep warm as we saw the Minnesota section below in the corner of the north end some 40 feet below. We



all had brought plastic bags or cushions to place on the bleachers to keep our butts dry. Actually, the seats were not as bad as originally thought. You did get a great view of all the action, though the players appear quite small.

The game started with a nice drive toward our end of the field and an early field goal. The sky was kind not to rain, but smoke from some of the tailgating grilling mixed with the damp air filled the north end of the stadium and created a temporary fog. As the

game progressed to the second quarter with the score only 6-0, some of the enterprising students discovered that they could make snow balls and they began a snow ball fight in the stands. This led to a few bright young kids discovering that they could throw their snow balls onto the field. In the direct line of fire was the Minnesota ball boy. He was smart enough to move toward the Penn State bench and work his way to the Minnesota alumni. A number of announcements tried to convey to the perpetrators that anyone throwing snow balls would be ejected. That slowed the pelting, but it continued into 3rd quarter as the attack escalated to our Lion and dancers during the Michael Jackson "Thriller" tribute. This was definitely bad form for our students. Some boos were being heard from the alumni in the stands. Finally, an announcement was made that aside from ejection, the perpetrators would be criminally arrested and their tickets for any remaining games confiscated. That stopped the snow balls but not the energy. The students in the top of Section EA built a 5 foot snow man in the empty seats. This was something for the crowd to cheer about.

As the game went on there was no real halftime program by the band. No one was allowed to march on the field for fear that the wet sod would be trampled ruining the playing surface. There was the introduction of the 46/47 team members, the story of the 1946/47 football team, their 1948 Cotton Bowl experience and how their unity and willingness to stand up against prejudice in those days was truly another wonderful reason to be PENN STATE PROUD.

The football game progressed with great defensive stands, an amazing catch by Derek Moye for a touchdown, and a dive on our end of the field for a touchdown by Clark.. The rain started in the 3rd quarter and it felt a bit cold. The announcer said there were 107,900 attendances. Yeah right! Maybe 80,000 hearty souls showed up, but it was still great fun. Tickets were going for as little as \$10 at the beginning of the game. The Minnesota Alumni Association group cheered loud to help our Penn State team. The defense put on an excellent show stopping Minnesota at one point on a fourth and goal to preserve a shut out. The final score was Penn State 20, Gophers 0. At the end we all left in the dark and drizzle and eventually back to the airport of choice to return to Minnesota. ☺

# Annual Night Out on the Town / Silent Auction

Come join us in celebrating our Chapter being named a Chapter of Distinction for 2009 at the Penn State Alumni Association Minnesota Chapter Annual Night Out on the Town & Silent Auction.

**Special Guest Speaker:** Mr. Jim Schaude – former Penn State Nittany Lion

## ANNUAL DINNER

**DATE:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

**TIME:** 5:00PM – 8:00PM

**MEAL:** APPETIZER, SALAD, & ENTRÉE – FAMILY STYLE

**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](mailto:vicepresident@psumn.com)

NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20, 2010.

## Don't have your *PennState* Minnesota gear?

**Get It Here!**



**Front Pocket**



**Back**



*Two great colors to choose from!*

Sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL & 3XL immediately available. Shirts come in 2 colors - white or blue. (What else did you expect?!?!)

Shirts are \$15.00 each or 2 for \$25.00 for PSAA-MN Members. The price for non-members is \$20.00 each or 2 for \$30.00. 2XL & 3XL are an additional \$2.00 each.

If you would like a shirt, you'll find a spot on the Membership renewal form to place an order.

You can also order a t-shirt at [gear@psumn.com](mailto:gear@psumn.com). Please provide the size, color & quantity. We can arrange to bring the shirts to the next Chapter function - or for \$4.50, mail the shirts.

# Candidates for Chapter Board Positions:

## CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT:

### Brian Binkley

Brian (AE '02) has been serving on the Board since 2002 upon graduating and moving to the Twin Cities. He has been involved with many chapter activities including the annual dinner, football roadtrips, freshmen-sendoffs and the annual softball Tournament. Brian is probably most well known however as the "email guy". He has been responsible for creating and maintaining our Chapter website and managing the email listserv. Brian has also initiated our involvement with various Social Networking tools. He has also served as Secretary and recently filled the open role of Treasurer. Brian is also a Lifetime Member of the Penn State Alumni Association and member of the Golden Lion Society.

## CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:

### Sarah Woodling Houle

Sarah graduated from Penn State in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in Food Science. She graduated with Honors and with Distinction. While at Penn State, Sarah participated in Food Science Club, was a Schreyer's Honors College, a member of Gamma Sigma Delta (Ag honors society), and was a member of both Oriana Singers and the Concert Choir. Upon her graduation from Penn State, she attended Cornell University and graduated in 2005 with a Masters Degree in Food Science & Technology.

For the past 3 years, Sarah has served as Vice President of the Minnesota Chapter of the PSAA. During this time she has organized the community service activity of Feed My Starving Children, organized the Annual Dinner & Silent Auction in 2008 & 2009, and has hosted the Summer BBQ and Annual Freshman Sendoff for the past 3 years with her husband Mike.

## CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER:

### Dan Gordon

Dan graduated in 1975 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. He obtained an MBA at the University of St. Thomas in 1988. Dan and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Kelly and Tyler. Kelly is currently a junior at Penn State majoring in Business. Tyler has been our head cheerleader for the past two years leading the "We are Penn State" cheers and providing the accompanying musical scores. Dan has participated in

many of our chapter events including the annual dinner, football parties, football road trip, freshmen sendoff and community service. He continues to be actively involved with the Chemical Engineering and the Food Science Departments at PSU through various teaching, recruiting and research activities.

### Megan Feeser

Megan is currently the Membership Chair on the Board. Originally from Tarentum, PA she graduated in 2001 with a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management and a Minor in Environmental Engineering. After college she was involved with the PSAA Lancaster County Chapter as Vice-President Membership. In 2006, she and her husband moved to Eden Prairie and before the boxes were unpacked, had been contacted by the President of the Minnesota Chapter to see how they could get involved.

### Aaron Hofstedt

Aaron graduated in 1997 with a B.S. in Geography. He lives in Coon Rapid (less than four miles from where he grew up) with his wife Lisa (B.H. in Communications, 1994) and sons Aidan (2) and Ethan (1). Aaron has been a member of the Board since 2004. He is a Sustaining Life Member of the Penn State Alumni Association and also a member of the Golden Lion Society, the Nittany Lion Club, the Floating Lions Club (Friends of Penn State Bands), and a Founding Member of Friends of the Penn State All-Sports Museum. Aaron is also a Penn State Alumni Admissions volunteer and represents Penn State at local College Fairs.

### Chris Dore

Chris graduated in 1993 with a Liberal Arts degree. Originally from Long Valley, NJ, Chris and his wife Christina live Plymouth, MN . A member of the Board since 2004, his primary responsibility has been organizing the PSU team for the annual softball tournament, though he has been active in various community service events (Habitat for Humanity, FMSC, etc) and other club events (Freshmen Send-off, football road trips, etc.). He is a Project Manager for United-Health Group in their mainframe group. For the past 14 years, he has also worked as a firefighter for the City of Plymouth (past lieutenant, past captain, current member of the relief board).

# Penn State Alumni Association-Minnesota Chapter Membership Form

Please fill out the **entire form** and send it, along with your payment, to  
**Megan Feeser, 15607 Junegrass Lane, Eden Prairie, MN 55347**  
Checks should be made payable to Minnesota Chapter-PSAA  
**Membership runs July 1, 2010 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## Chapter Membership Dues

### **Already a member?**

Renew your membership thru June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 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 30<sup>th</sup> 2011

### Activities You're Interested In:

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### 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:

### **PSAA-MN ELECTION BALLOT:**

#### **President:(Vote for one)**

Brian Binkley

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

#### **Vice President: (Vote for one)**

Sarah Houle

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

#### **Board Member: (Vote up to four)**

Dan Gordon

Megan Feeser

Aaron Hofstedet

Chris Dore

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

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

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

New Family Membership (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_  
Renew Family Membership (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_  
Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Dinner Tickets Members (\$30 ea) \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Dinner Ticklers Non- Members (\$40 ea) \_\_\_\_\_

#### T-Shirts:

\_\_ S \_\_ M \_\_ L \_\_ XL \_\_ 2XL (Blue) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ S \_\_ M \_\_ L \_\_ XL \_\_ 2XL (White) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Price: \$15 ea, 2 for \$25

Mail Shirts: (\$4.50) or

Non Member Price: \$20 ea, 2 for \$30

arrange pickup? (Circle)

2XL & 3XL – \$2 additional

Total Check to Minnesota Chapter-PSAA

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



## *Notable Upcoming 2010 Events*

**February 28 – PSU Night Out on the Town**  
featuring Silent Auction

**April 24 – Feed My Starving**  
Children Service Project

**August – Summer BBQ/Freshman Send-Off**

**September – 2010 PSU Football!**

**We're on the  
Web!!**

**[www.PSUMN.com](http://www.PSUMN.com)**



Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association  
c/o Marilyn Binkley  
13537 89th Circle North  
Maple Grove, MN 55369