



Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association Update

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nittany Nation,

I have the great fortune of writing this letter from our home away from home, University Park, PA. The past six months (seven by the time this goes to print) has turned Happy Valley inside out and upside down but I am proud to report that I truly believe that we are back on track to putting the "Happy" back in Happy Valley. The healing has begun as evidence of the excitement and passion of fellow alumni volunteers from around the country that I'm meeting this weekend at the annual Alumni Leadership Connections.

The past twelve months have been very busy for the Minnesota Chapter and we should feel blessed by the tremendous effort that the Board of Directors put together all year round.

In April, we made a \$1,000 donation to Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota at their Annual Gala which helped them raise over \$50,000 in their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting positive parenting, healthy families, and supportive communities where children are respected and valued.

I am excited to announce that the Minnesota Chapter has been selected by the Alumni Council to receive the award for the JOEPA/LIONS Event program in the New/

Innovative Event or Program Category for 2012. Kudos to Marilyn Binkley for brainstorming the idea and implementing it last fall. The award ceremony will be held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Alumni Council on October 26. At that time, we'll be awarded our third \$500 award in just four years!

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to continue to serve the chapter as President for the next two years and I'm equally excited about the ideas our Board of Directors have been generating for new initiatives. We're always looking for your input and welcome your feedback in everything we do. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if you would like to get more involved with any of the great events we host.

Have a great summer, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again at the Annual Summer BBQ in August and at the weekly TV tailgates in the fall.

For the Glory,

Brian Binkley '02
president@psumn.com

JULY 2012

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Membership Form

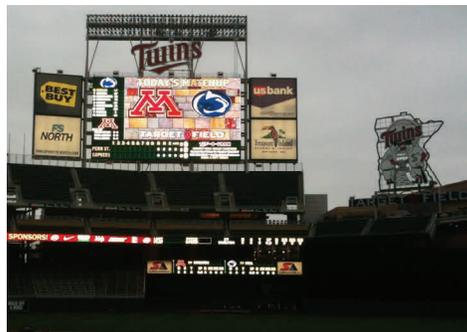
2012 Football Schedule:

- 09/01/12 vs. OHIO
- 09/08/12 at Virginia
- 09/15/12 vs. NAVY
- 09/22/12 vs. TEMPLE
- 09/29/12 at Illinois
- 10/06/12 vs. NORTHWESTERN
- 10/13/12 Bye
- 10/20/12 at Iowa
- 10/27/12 vs. OHIO STATE
- 11/03/12 at Purdue
- 11/10/12 at Nebraska
- 11/17/12 vs. INDIANA
- 11/24/12 vs. WISCONSIN
- 12/01/12 Big Ten Championship
- Lucas Oil Stadium – Indianapolis, IN

Penn State Baseball at Target Field

May 5, 2012

On Saturday, May 5th, the Penn State Alumni Association Minnesota Chapter met at Hubert's at Target Center to get ready for the Nittany Lions - Gophers game at Target Field. With rain on the horizon, our local fans showed up to help the out-of-state parents cheer on their sons playing ball. A rain delay of three hours postponed the major league experience for all, but the rain passed and the game was played. Our Nittany Lions stayed sharp and took the 5-1 win.



It was fun to see the Nittany Lion logo on the Target Field scoreboard!

Late Breaking News ...

We have access to 20 tickets to the Nebraska football game and may still have some Iowa tickets leftover. Visit the website for more details or email us at footballtix@psumn.com if you're interested.

Football TV Tailgates Recap and Looking Forward to 2012



Fall 2011 brought the many Penn State faithful back to the Medina Entertainment Center for another season of Penn State football. The new tradition of JOEPA/LIONS proved to be a big hit and was enjoyed by many. As the season progressed, football was overshadowed by a number of other events that unfolded at the university. No longer were the TV tailgates simply a venue for watching a game but they proved to be a place for fans to find support and freely discuss their thoughts and feelings among other Penn Staters.

In response to a forever changed Penn State, our

chapter decided to follow the example set by many Penn State faithful and locally support Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. A donation of \$1,000 was made on behalf of the chapter from the proceeds of the JOEPA/LIONS game as well as many personal contributions.

Fall 2012 will prove to be a new chapter in the Penn State history books with Coach Bill O'Brien leading the Nittany Lions. We look forward to embracing what this season has in store and we hope that you will join us. Keep an eye on the website and your email for updates on game times! 🌐



Calling All Softball Players!

Do you play softball? Do you play baseball? Do you like to run, throw, catch, and swing? If you do, then come out and play in the Big 10 Annual Softball Tournament on Saturday, August 25th, 2012. Even if you do not want to play, we can always use some excited fans to cheer us on!

We are hopeful that we can actually be victorious this year and not have to resort to just taking a picture with the trophy! Stay turned to the website and your email for more information. **Quit reading already and start practicing!** 🌐



Annual Summer BBQ / Freshman Send-Off

The PSAA-MN annual summer BBQ/freshman send-off was held on August 7th, 2011. Approximately forty-five Penn State alumni and students gathered at Dan Gordon's home in Plymouth on a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon. Tyler Gordon, a sophomore at Penn State, was the grill master for hot dogs, hamburgers, and brats. Everyone enjoyed good food, good friends, and lawn games.

Five families of incoming freshman were in attendance. They were welcomed into the Penn State community by fellow alumni members. The incoming freshman had an opportunity to meet with current students and recent grads and discuss life on campus.

In addition to a great picnic, the scholarship winner was announced that day. Congratulations to Courtney Stevens who is junior at Penn State. Unfortunately, Courtney was not able to be honored in person, but everyone from our chapter wishes her well and congratulations on representing Minnesota students at Penn State.

Once again, Dan Gordon has graciously offered to host this year's student send-off/annual picnic on August 5th, 2012 at his home in Plymouth from 3pm-6pm. Watch your email and our website for more details in the coming weeks or contact us at info@psumn.com. 



Saying Farewell to Joe – Memoirs from Nancy Hammond

January 30, 2012

Growing up around the corner from Joe Paterno in our College Heights neighborhood and attending Penn State University, I have memories of Joe inside and outside the football stadium. I have been present for many of his football milestones but did not realize when I originally booked my trip to State College from Minnesota, that I would depart from Minneapolis on the day of his death, January 22, 2012. I would have made arrangements for the trip regardless, but this was both a coincidence and a gift to be able to honor his life in person.

January 22, 2012 was also the anniversary of Bill Schreyer's death, a man that Penn Staters would remember as a respected former Penn State Board of Trustees member and former CEO of Merrill Lynch. Like Joe, he gave generously to academic causes of the University. His leadership is missed on the BOT. January 22nd – 22 was also the number John Cappelletti wore, Penn State's only Heisman trophy winner whose 1973 acceptance speech given in New York City is still memorable 39 years later.

At the time, John's younger brother, Joey, had leukemia. He passed away in 1976. John's acceptance speech is remembered more for its human aspect of acknowledging Joey's life battles than it is for honoring challenges John faced en route to receiving college football's most recognized national trophy. I mention this because Joe Paterno's legacy, as evident in the words of many expressed throughout the week, extends beyond football statistics and trophies. Some people do their jobs. Others use their jobs to play bigger. In the spirit of the latter, Joe embraced his vocation as a platform to teach, inspire, and give generously to help others. Jimmy Cefalo, a former Penn State football player who represented the 70's as he eulogized Joe, said it well. "His legacy is all of us."

I did not know what all would happen at the public memorial on Thursday, January 26th, but I knew it would be as special as the man. When my dad picked me up at the State College airport on the preceding Sunday, we followed our normal route which took us past the football stadium and the Joe Paterno statue. As we approached, I could see the glow of the stadium's lights. They had all been turned on in Joe's honor. As we navigated the unusually heavy traffic by the statue, I saw hundreds gathered. Through the crowd and the TV camera lights, I caught a glimpse of Joe's statue. Someone had draped a blue and white scarf around his neck. A growing field of flowers surrounded his feet. Later, an American flag appeared, hanging on his shoulder.

Earlier in the week, thousands stood in line for the public viewing held in the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center which the Paternos have supported generously. Over two successive days, 14 hours were available for public viewing. Even with that amount of time available, the line was continuous. The longest reported wait was three hours. A football player stood on each side of the closed casket, one from the present team and one representing teams past. They rotated shifts. Paterno

family members graciously made the effort to be there for as much time as they could, personally greeting those who attended. It struck me that the public had so many opportunities to pay their respects. Tens of thousands more lined the streets for the funeral procession on Wednesday which wound its way through campus and downtown.

As I sat in my seat at the public memorial service on Thursday, I looked up at the full arena. I was thankful to be there. The Bryce Jordan Center seats about 15,000 people. It was reported that 10,000 free tickets set aside for the public "sold out" on line in 7 minutes. Seated in front of me was one of Joe's physicians, joined by fellow members of the Mt. Nittany medical center who had cared for Joe. Hundreds of past and present football players sat immediately on my left. Down the row, were mutual friends from the "old neighborhood" with whom I used to play when I was a little girl. I had not seen them since high school. Seated on my left was my mother. On my right was another Joe, a man whom I met earlier in the week. He had moved to State College about a year ago to write a book about Joe Paterno with the family's permission. My brother was seated with friends. Dad watched the memorial at home as his ankle tendons voted unanimously to avoid the crowds and steps. He was glad to have attended other events honoring Joe.

As peaceful music started to play the quiet buzz of the audience stopped. A minute or two passed. Then, through a side entrance by the stage, Sue Paterno stepped on to the main floor of the arena. All spontaneously rose to their feet and clapped in honor of her, and the man she represented. The standing ovation was the longest in which I have ever participated – any speaker or any concert. Needing some humor, I thought to myself, this ovation is even longer than when I saw Bruce Springsteen and his band play in St. Paul. She was followed by her children, grandchildren, and extended family as the applause continued in support of all.

Moved by the outpouring of so many, I dug through my purse for a scrap of paper so that I could jot down some memories. At the top, I wrote, "Moments." I could have easily titled it, "Joe's teaching continues." While the entire 2 ½ hour ceremony was special, I realized the beginning and the end were most impactful for me. First was Sue's entrance. Last was Jay's eulogy. His initial words, noted on the next page, galvanized the moment.



The following are rough notes I wrote down with some additional comments:

- SuePa's entrance – heartwarming...understatement.
- Penn State Glee Club sings PSU Alma Mater – This song feels different to me now. Hard to explain why.
- Blackledge (80's decade) – “Joe was as fierce of a competitor as I've ever seen...The bigger the game, the quieter he was. But you could see the gleam in his eye. He knew (for that game) he didn't have to motivate his players.” Joe quote – “Success is never final and failure is never fatal.”
- Charlie Pittman (60's) – “I was one of the first two black recruits. He always made me feel special.” He and his son were the first father son tandem to play for Joe and both were academic all Americans. He got the call that Joe passed away on his birthday. Last line – “Rest in peace Coach. We'll take it from here!”

- Joe B. – First Mayor of Paternoville. Fun stuff.
- Susan Welch, Dean of Liberal Arts – Testimony to Paterno family's commitment to academics.
- Phil Knight – Head of Nike. Funny stories about Joe doing skits. Highly poignant comments that nobody else said. “If there is a villain in

this tragedy, it lies in that investigation and not Joe Paterno. Yet, he was scorned by the media.” ROUSING standing ovation.

- Jimmy Cefalo – (70's) “What is Joe's legacy? 409 wins, 2 national championships and 5 coach of the year trophies..?” “We met Joe in our living rooms. He recruited our moms.” Joe said, “Your pasta is better than Mrs. Cappelletti's, as my father poured Joe a glass of his homemade wine.” Wisdom from Joe – “You're either going to get better or you are going to get worse...I ask myself that every morning. What's it going to be today?” “HUSTLE. Something good will happen.” “Joe's legacy is US.”

- Christian Marrone – (90's) Knee injuries ended his career early. Contemplated leaving PSU. Paterno wouldn't hear of it...“You have a greater purpose and I'm going to help you achieve it.”

- MRob – (2000's) “It wasn't until the end of 2005 that I realized the sharks that were after Joe (following 2 down years). I remember standing next to the orange bowl trophy. I can't

help but wonder if he was thinking to all of those sharks, ‘Look at me now!’ ” MRob had just arrived from Hawaii to be here for the ceremony. He was preparing for the pro bowl and told the NFL, “Don't make me choose.”

- Mike Mauti – (2010's) As a recruit, he talked with his family before going into Joe's office. He told them we are not going to make any commitments today. Paterno looked at him and said, “What's it going to be, kid?” Mike – “I'm here!!!” Dad reached across to Mike and said, “Are you sure?” Joe – “Shut up. The kid said he is coming!”
- Jay Paterno – Ovation started long before he reached the podium. “As you know I'm Jay Paterno. On my driver's license it says Joseph Vincent Paterno Jr. and I am SO proud to have that name.” The crowd burst into applause and stood – I believe a mutual and emotional acknowledgement of Joe's integrity in the context of media attacks during the last three months of Joe's life.



- JP - Story about Joe in fraternity who hatched plan to get Jewish student voted in after one person continually blackballed him when voting. Joe stood up and claimed he was the one who blackballed the student. Whoever the real person was didn't have

the guts to admit his blackball vote. The Jewish student was voted in.

- JP - “Joe left this world with a clear conscience” – another standing O.
- JP - Opera in the air at home while Joe was working in the evening – Sue was the opera in Joe's life.

JP - Recollection of how his father ended games in the locker room with the team by saying the Lord's Prayer and his father's response when Jay asked why that....that prayer. “It's the words, Jay, it's the words,” responded Joe. “It was OUR father....forgive US as WE forgive....” There was no “I” or “me.”

At Jay's request, we ended the ceremony hand in hand reciting the Lord's Prayer.

There are many people who strive to make a positive difference. Often they go unrecognized. We are especially fortunate when those who have the opportunity to influence many in a public role choose to do so. Thanks, Joe, for playing your bigger game and representing all who live success with honor. 🌐

Reflections From THON – Chris Barrella

Penn State is a world-class academic institution, with globally-recognized athletic programs, and boasts the largest, most loyal alumni network anywhere. One thing most people outside of the northeast and those who have no ties to the university probably have never heard is the word “THON”. For those that do recognize these four letters however, it gives a whole new meaning to We Are, Penn State!



I came to State College in the fall of 2006 with very little knowledge of the incredible philanthropy and selflessness that was spreading throughout Penn State campuses. My first experience with the Penn State Dance Marathon was not until my sophomore year. I was a member of the Operations Committee that year and then again volunteered my senior year with the Donor Relations Committee. During all my time at Penn State, from football games to hanging out at the HUB, no experience really stuck with me like my involvement with THON. This all culminated this past February when my best friend and fellow Penn Stater, Max Thompson and I were 2 of 4 alumni dancers in THON 2012. It was never anything I intended to do post-graduation, but there was something about those 46 hours in the middle of the winter that draws so many students

together that I wanted to be a part of it again. Not to mention that I wanted to show my support for all those children who are fighting the terrible disease known as pediatric cancer.

It was a long trip back to Pennsylvania for Max and I but we made it to that final dancer meeting and it all began with the whirlwind that is the Human Tunnel on the way to the BJC. The rest of the weekend was a huge blur as reality disappeared with water gun fights and endless dance music blaring non-stop. As they led us outside for a brief moment to see that life still existed beyond the walls of THON, the last four hours began and were over quicker than I can even remember.



As much fun and great memories that Max and I had that weekend, knowing that we raised over \$10 million dollars for the Four Diamonds Fund, it really helped to put life in perspective. An experience we will never forget, but more importantly, an experience that may have saved a life that weekend. 🍷

Candidates for Chapter Board Positions

CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Marilyn Binkley

Marilyn graduated from Penn State in 2004 with a B.S. in Art Education and a minor in Art History. She currently runs her own business called KidzArt which provides art enrichment programming for children in the Metro Area. Marilyn is currently the past president of the chapter and enjoys helping to keep the Penn State spirit alive and well in Minnesota. Marilyn and her husband Brian have a son Nathan who is almost 2 and are expecting a brother or sister for him mid August just in time for football season! When she is not busy chasing around Nathan or working, she enjoys working out, photography, and spending time with her family.

Julie Fisher

Julie graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in Marketing from the Smeal College of Business. Originally, Julie is from Columbus, OH but felt OSU was a bit too close to home and opted to attend Penn State. Julie graduated in 3 years and after a short stint in Philadelphia, PA, she has worked for The Motorists Insurance Group (both in Columbus and here in the Twin Cities) for six years. She has served as co-secretary the past three years with her husband Matt. Julie is a lifetime member of the PSAA and a Golden Lion Society Member. Julie is excited for the upcoming year as her and Matt prepare for the pending arrival of their first child. She enjoys being involved at her church and spending time with her dog Monty (3 y.o. Chocolate Lab).

Candidates for Chapter Board Positions

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT:

Brian Binkley

Brian (AE '02) has been serving on the board for over ten years and has recently been struggling with no longer being classified as a "young" alumni by the Alumni Association's definition of someone who has graduated within the past ten years. He is proud that his 22 month old son, Nathan, knows how a Nittany Lion roars, can recognize the Penn State logo, and will answer "blue" when you ask him his favorite color. Brian has been involved with many chapter activities including the annual dinner, football roadtrips, freshmen-sendoffs and the annual softball Tournament. He has been responsible for creating and maintaining our Chapter website, social networking groups and managing the email listserv. He has also served as Secretary, Treasurer and most recently, President of the Chapter. Brian is also a Lifetime Member of the Penn State Alumni Association, LionsROAR Alumni Admissions Volunteer, a member of Back the Lions and a member of the Golden Lion Society.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

Matt Fisher

Matt graduated in 2007 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He grew up in Erie, PA and dreamed of going to Penn State since he first visited main campus in 8th grade for a science project (PJAS) competition. After completing three co-op rotations for The Dow Chemical Company, Matt accepted a full-time offer with Dow Water and Process Solutions in Edina. One exciting aspect of his job is to return to campus every fall to recruit students to work at Dow. Matt has graciously shared the role of secretary with his wife Julie for the past three years. He is also a lifetime member of the Penn State Alumni Association and a member of the Golden Lion Society. In his spare time, Matt enjoys remodeling projects, especially working on a nursery for Julie's and his first child due to arrive in October.

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER:

Dan Gordon

Dan graduated in 1975 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He obtained an MBA at the University of St. Thomas in 1988. Dan has two children, Kelly and Tyler. Kelly graduated last year from Penn State majoring in Business and a minor in Labor Relations. Tyler will be a junior this fall at Penn State majoring in Engineering. He was our chapter's head cheerleader for a number of years leading the "We are Penn State" cheers and providing the accompanying musical scores at the football gatherings at Medina and Majors. Dan is a life time member of the Penn State Alumni Association and has participated in many of our chapter events including the annual dinner, football parties, football road trips, 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. Dan is currently the PSAA MN chapter Treasurer.

CANDIDATES FOR CO-SECRETARY:

Kelly Gordon

Kelly grew up in Minnesota and upon graduation from high school, knew Penn State was the school for her. She entered her first year undecided on a major but given the vast variety of classes, took a Labor Law class which solidified her desire to pursue HR. Kelly graduated in 2011 with a Business Management degree from Smeal and a minor in Labor and Employment Relations. She currently works as a Staffing Supervisor (or recruiter) for Kelly Services in downtown Minneapolis. She enjoys her new job and is thankful that Penn State gave her the opportunity to prepare for the "real world". In her spare time, Kelly loves to cook, travel, run around Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis, and of course watch Penn State sports on ESPN.

Chris Barrella

Chris was born and raised in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, less than a 2 hour drive from Happy Valley. His time at Penn State began as part of the 2006 Freshman Class at University Park, which is the largest freshman class ever! He studied Finance and International Business and had the opportunity to study abroad in Italy during the spring of 2009. He was involved in organizations such as THON, the Penn State Investment Association, Italian Student Society, Campus Crusade for Christ, and the Penn State Fencing Club. After graduation in 2010, he joined Cargill, Inc. which brought him to Minneapolis last September. In his free time, Chris is very involved with his church, loves to golf, and enjoys traveling to new places. He is very excited to meet every Penn State alum in Minnesota and is looking forward to working with the chapter and growing its presence and membership.

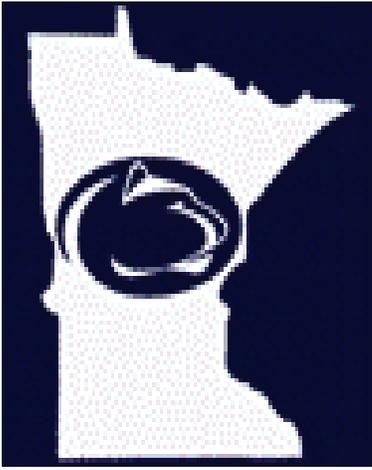
Special Thanks:

To Vince Trotta for being the chapter's informal photographer and providing many great "shots" for this year's newsletter.



To Brian Binkley for his fearless leadership and dedication to our chapter and the University.





Mark Your Calendars!

August 5th – Student Send-Off/ Annual Picnic

August 25th –  Softball Tournament

September – 2012 PSU Football!



Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association
c/o Brian Binkley
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