



Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association Annual Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Nittany Nation,

As we approach the middle of the summer, I find it hard to believe that another academic year has come and gone. As I reflect back on the past year, I am once again pleased to see continued growth for the chapter in multiple ways.

This year marked one of the highest household membership counts in the 13 years that I've been serving on the board. Yearly chapter membership dues are a critical component for our operating budget. Your membership helps support a number of annual events such as the Annual Summer BBQ Picnic/Student Send-off and the Big Ten Alumni Softball Tournament. We have a set allowance each year within our budget to have one Board Member attend yearly Alumni Association training which is held at University Park every three years and various regional location the other years. Membership dues have help offset the cost of past events such as the Friday Night Alumni Mixer. Dues also allow us to provide goodies to local students heading off to Penn State in August, have prizes for our LIONS game and allow us to give a little back to local charities that we support such as the Second Harvest Heartland and Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. In addition to supporting all of the above activities, your \$25 annual membership comes with the benefit of reduced ticket prices for many events and discounts on chapter apparel. So thank you to all of our membership who continue to help financially support our chapter.

We have also continued to grow our endowed scholarship which will allow us to continue to offer more financial support to deserving local students. Please see take a minute to see our article on page two of this newsletter for a full update on the scholarship.

This year also marked a very unique

and hopefully everyone will agree, enjoyable, Annual Afternoon Out on the Town event with a special showing of the film *The Joe We Know*. We knew this type of event wasn't going to be something that could happen every year, so we took some additional measures to really help advertise the event and it showed on the afternoon of May 17 when we had well over 120 alumni, friends and family in attendance at the New Hope Cinema Grill. Once again, this event was by far the biggest event we have put on in the 13 years that I've lived in Minnesota with the exception to our Friday Night Mixers – but I am confident that we had more local attendees for this event than even those large Mixers.

I'd like to take the remaining space in my message here to once again, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who serves on the Board of Directors. The Board makes everything the Chapter does possible. Here's just a small sample of what the Board does, often behind the scenes of what you may see (and certainly in no order of importance):

1. Creating, organizing and hosting events
2. Managing the ever increasing membership
3. Preparing this newsletter
4. Managing our finances
5. Taking photographs at our events
6. Managing the scholarship program
7. Engagement of Alumni

The next time you are in contact with a Board Member, please thank them for all they do. Without these volunteers, both the current and those of the past, we would not be the Chapter we are today. To "my Board" ... thank you! 🐾

For the Glory,
Brian A Binkley
Brian Binkley '02

JULY 2015

Inside this issue:

Scholarship Endowment.....	2
Second Harvest Heartland	2
PSU Men's B-ball	2
Chapter of Distinction.....	3
Community Support	3
THON 2015.....	3
The Joe We Know	4-5
Student Sendoff/BBQ	6
2015-16 Membership	6
Join the PSUMN Board	7
PSUMN Board Elections.....	7

2015 Football Schedule:

09/05/15 at TEMPLE
09/12/15 vs. BUFFALO BULLS
09/19/15 at RUTGERS
09/26/15 vs. SAN DIEGO STATE
10/03/15 vs. ARMY
10/10/15 vs. INDIANA
10/17/15 at OHIO STATE
10/24/15 vs. MARYLAND
10/31/15 vs. ILLINOIS
11/07/15 vs. NORTHWESTERN
11/14/15 at Bye
11/21/15 vs. MICHIGAN
11/28/15 at MICHIGAN STATE
12/05/15 vs. BIG TEN CHAMP.



Scholarship Endowment: Update & 2014-15 Recipients

We have a number of exciting updates in regards to the Past President's Endowed Scholarship. The Penn State Endowment Stewardship Report for 2013-14 was released by the University last November and contains the current financial health of the Chapter's scholarship endowment.

During 2013-2014, \$860.28 was added to the endowment. The book value of the endowment fund on June 30, 2013 was \$70,883.51 with a market value of \$103,060.81. If you're keep track, that was a market value increase of over \$13,000 in the past year!

Penn State notified us that we will have a little over \$3,900 available for awarding in 2015-16. As a result, we are maintaining our total scholarship award of \$3500 while still increasing our overall funds by reverting the unused amount back into principal.

In 2013, we renamed the endowment to *Minnesota Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association Past Presidents' Endowed Scholarship*. This name reflects the desire of the Board to recognize and honor the past leaders of our Chapter. Each year, the scholarship will be given in "honor of" one of the past Chapter Presidents. This year's honoree is Jack Yorkovich who held the President title in the early 1980s. Jack

and his wife Mary Ellen continue to be devoted supporters of the Chapter for the past 30+ years. Thank you Jack!

As we noted in last year's newsletter, the Chapter's Board of Directors has been investigating the options for a second scholarship but ultimately decided to continue developing our existing endowment. As we continually evaluate our options for providing the best value to the students from Minnesota attending Penn State, we are excited to announce that we contributed an additional \$6,000 into the scholarship fund this past spring - and these figures are not included in the report above.

The recipients for the 2014-2015 academic year were Courtney Jackson of Cloquet (\$2500) and a repeat winner, Lauren Ulsh (\$1000) of Rochester, MN. Congratulations Courtney and Lauren! To find out who will be awarded with our 2015-16 scholarship, be sure to attend our Annual Summer BBQ on August 16.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their steady support in our on-going efforts to support our local Nittany Lions. With your generosity, we have been able to provide over \$29,000 in student aid to students from Minnesota attending Penn State. 🇺🇸

Big Ten – Second Harvest Heartland Community Service Event

On Saturday May 30th, the Big Ten family came together to help package food for families and seniors in need at Second Harvest Heartland in Golden Valley, MN. Amongst the 40+ individuals representing eight of the Big Ten Universities we collectively packed 4,981 pounds of food! That comes out to 4,150 meals - something we should all be very proud of. Second Harvest Heartland is always looking for volunteers and this is a great way to get involved with the local community. After our volunteering collaboration, there was a Big Ten appetizer/happy hour held at Park Tavern in Saint Louis Park, MN. This event was a great way to mingle with fellow Big Ten alumni and future alumni. Looking forward to the next event! 🇺🇸



We're very proud of the 11,000+ pounds of food that our fifteen volunteers packed for Second Harvest on February 15, 2015.

PSU Men's Basketball vs Minnesota Gophers

On a Sunday afternoon in early March, the MN Gophers were celebrating their last regular season home game with Senior Day. Little did they know, that a last minute buzzer beater by our own Nittany Lions would take that last home court victory away.

The Nittany Lions started out strong in the first half, heading in to the locker room with a 10+ point lead. The Gophers came out strong and it was a nail biter all through the remainder of the game. Being one of what seemed like ten total PSU fans, you stick out like a sore thumb so you have you have to be ready to hold your own. For me, that meant not really watching the last 30 seconds of the game

(I do the same thing during football season regardless of our opponents) until I heard the very loud Gopher supporters come to complete silence when D.J. Newbill's last second three pointer gave our Nittany Lions the victory. Bittersweet for the Gopher seniors, but a nice win for the Lions and well fought.

The March game at "The Barn" also marked the last time we would see Chaska MN native, Ross Travis, in a Nittany Lion uniform. He contributed 8 points, 6 rebounds and an assist in the 79-76 victory. We wish Ross the best of luck as he chases his dream to play in the NFL. 🇺🇸



Ross Travis

Group of Distinction Honor

This past February, the Chapter was awarded with its 8th consecutive Group of Distinction award from the Penn State Alumni Association. So what is a Group of Distinction and what does it mean for us? Good question!

Per the Alumni Association, "... groups must submit an annual report, complete a minimum of seven of 15 affiliate group programming categories and be in Good Standing. The categories are student support and interaction, networking and fellowship, sports activities, community service, group membership support and recruitment, Alumni Association membership support and recruitment, communications, national service project, participation in Alumni Association Awards program, participation in Alumni Association-sponsored training, marching in the Homecoming parade, and Dance Marathon-related events."

New for 2015, there are now three levels of distinction: Lion, Laurel and Elm. Having completed 11-13 of the programming categories qualified our Chapter for the inaugural Laurel Level Group of Distinction.



LAUREL LEVEL

So what does all of this really mean for us? We are in the second level priority pool for the annual football lottery for alumni affiliate groups, we receive recognition in *Penn Stater* and at PSAA events and we receive a special silver Group of Distinction patch for our chapter flag. We were received two (2) free admissions to attend an ALC (regional training or national conference) which was put to good use with the regional training here in Minneapolis this past May.

Lastly, and perhaps the most exciting part, for being at the Laurel Level, we were entered into a drawings for a \$500 grant to be used towards programming of our group's choice - and we're proud to announce that our chapter won that lottery! The grant greatly helped offset costs for this year's Annual Afternoon Out on the Town with *The Joe We Know*. 🐾

Community Support – Giving Back

One of the purposes of our Chapter as listed in our by-laws is to "support and develop the civic activities of this community". Since the spring of 2012, we made contributions to Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota totally over \$2,500 and annually donate \$100 to Second Harvest or Feed My Starv-

ing Children, our past Community Service event hosts. This is all above and beyond donations to THON.

When you sign up for your 2015-2016 Chapter membership, you'll see a line item if you wish to make additional contributions towards these worthy causes that we will continue to support in the years to come. 🐾

THON 2015 – "Empower the Dreamers"

This past February over 15,000 Penn State student volunteers celebrated another big year for THON! Over 700 dancers stood for the 46 hour no-sitting, no sleeping dance marathon while tens of thousands of spectators supported them in the stands of the BJC. This year Penn State students raised more than \$13 million for the kids!

Those who couldn't attend THON in person were able to watch the entire weekend live on the THON webcast, where 150,000 viewers from all 50 states and 99 countries tuned in.

Childhood cancers are the number 1 disease killer of children in the United States. However, today, researchers say that up to 75% of children with cancer can be cured. And with that hope and determination, Penn State students will continue to raise money to help fight pediatric cancer and one day find a cure.

THON started in 1973 and in 1977 it became affiliated with the Four Diamonds Fund. Since then, THON has raised nearly \$127 million. 96% of the funds raised for THON go to the Four Diamonds Fund, which helps families with finances so they can focus on their child going through cancer treatment and not have to worry about medical bills. No families have ever been turned away from the Four Diamonds Fund.

"One day we will dance in celebration. Until then, we dance for a cure." - Anonymous 🐾



The Joe We Know



Coach Joe Paterno's “Grand Experiment”

A film exploring the impact of “JoePa’s” legacy through interviews with dozens of former players

The Joe We Know

On Sunday, May 17th, a large group of Penn State alumni had the privilege of attending a screening of *The Joe We Know*, a film put together by the Penn State Football Lettermen. Former players Tom Donchez ('74) and Michael Mauti ('12) joined us at the New Hope Cinema Grill for the late morning showing.

Donchez and Mauti arrived early enough to greet attendees, and graciously allowed their pictures to be taken with anyone who asked. They also signed copies of the movie poster, which were available for purchase before and after the viewing. Both men also bookended the program, with Mauti introducing the film, Donchez telling the story of how it came to be, and both men answering questions afterward.

In case you don't know the history, *The Joe We Know* was intended to be a birthday gift to Joe Paterno in 2012. When news of the Sandusky scandal broke in the fall of 2011 and Coach Paterno was fired, the Lettermen realized they had a unique opportunity. As Tom Donchez explained it, Paterno had never needed his players before. They had needed him plenty of times, but never the other way around. For the first time, they could see that their coach needed them, and they were determined to come through in a big way. Paterno dedicated his life as a coach to developing his players into men with integrity, who would go on to live life according to the high ideals he set for them. He saw his success not in numbers of games won, but in the number of players who went on to live out those ideals. The Lettermen wanted Joe to know that the lessons he taught them had stuck; they were the men they had become because of Paterno.

Through relentless effort, a core group of Lettermen created a group to spearhead the film project, and they used every means at their disposal to contact as many of

Paterno's former players as they could. Hundreds of them responded, traveling back to the East coast where several filming locations were set up. In interview after interview, the men told stories about their coach and how much he influenced them on and off the field.

Watching the film, I initially wondered why the players weren't identified on the screen as they talked.

Who are these guys? I wondered. Some I recognized, but others I didn't. After the film, Tom Donchez told the story of how the film was put together, and he explained that the players' names weren't there because this was a film for their coach. He didn't need to be reminded of their names - he knew them all.

Sadly, Paterno didn't live long enough to see the film. He never even knew of its existence. At the time of his death the filming had been completed, but the editing needed to be done, and the decision was made to present it to Sue for her birthday on February 14th prior to the premier, already scheduled for February 18th for former players, coaches, managers and their families.

The film was also shown in a theatre in State College, and was spectacularly well attended, so much so that a dozen more showings were scheduled. Seeing the interest from Penn Staters across the nation, Tom Donchez became the front man for the film. He travels anywhere there is a group who is interested and who can make the necessary arrangements. He helps to enlist the participation of local Lettermen (like Mauti) and tells the story of how the film came to be, and what Joe means to all of his past players.

The feedback from alumni who attended is that this was one of the best events we've ever done as an Alumni Chapter. If you are interested in knowing more about *The Joe We Know*, check out the website dedicated to the project:

www.grandexperiment.org



Hosts: Tom Donchez and Mike Mauti



Lettermen: Bob Urban, Tom Donchez and Mike Mauti

Annual Summer BBQ / Student Send-Off



The Minnesota Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association's annual summer BBQ and student sendoff was held on August 10th 2014. Over 40 Penn state alumni and students again gathered at Dan Gordon's home in Plymouth on a beautiful warm Sunday afternoon. We were pleased to see so many new alumni attend this event. Five new incoming freshmen were in attendance as well as many of their family members. The incoming freshman had an opportunity to meet alumni, recent grads and current students at Penn State. The picnic featured hot dogs, brats, pulled pork sandwiches, salads and desserts provide by the chapter.

During the picnic our scholarship winners were announced. Our first place winner (\$2500) was Courtney Jackson of Cloquet, and the second place winner (\$1000) was Lauren Ulsh of Rochester. We were very pleased to have both of them attend picnic and be honored in person. We wish both of them well and congratulate Courtney and Lauren on representing Minnesota students at Penn State.

This year's Student sendoff will be once again held at Dan Gordon's home at 12840 54th Ave N in Plymouth. The event will be from 3 to 6 PM on Sunday August 16th.



Three of our local students with Board Members Brian Binkley (far left) and Stephanie Brondani (far right).



2015-16 Membership Renewal

As a reminder, our annual chapter membership runs concurrent with the University academic calendar: July 1 to June 30.

In our own effort to help reduce paper consumption, we have eliminated the additional 8-1/2"x11" insert that was traditionally found in the newsletter that served as our membership renewal form, membership voting and chapter apparel purchases. Instead, we would like to encourage you to visit our website where you can download the

membership form where you can print it at your own leisure or for those savvy enough, fill it out electronically and email it back to membership@psumn.com

You can also pay for your annual membership, just \$25 per household, plus purchase chapter shirts and make donations to our scholarship fund, all on our webpage.

If you are unable to print the membership form, please contact us at membership@psumn.com and we'll directly mail you a form.

Download the membership form:

<http://www.psumn.com/howtojoin.asp>

Purchase Annual Chapter Membership (and more!):

<http://www.psumn.com/store.asp>

Becoming a Member of the PSU MN Alumni Chapter Board

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 (currently) monthly Board Meetings held throughout the year. During these 1-1.5 hour meetings, our group discusses upcoming events and generate ideas for new events that can help meet the needs of the 1000+ Penn Staters in

Minnesota. We ask that the Board Members attend as many functions as possible, but we understand that time is of the more precious commodity these days, so contribute in anyway that you can!

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a Board Member, contact Brian Binkley at president@psumn.com or call 763.416.5385. ☎

Candidates for Chapter General Board Member Positions

Jim Kaufmann

Jim grew up outside Norristown (near Philadelphia) and enrolled at Penn State in 1967, graduating with a B.A. in English in 1972. While working as a high school English teacher, he earned an M.A. in English from St. Bonaventure University in 1976. In 1978, he and his wife Marcia (also a PSU grad) moved to Minnesota, and he received his Ph.D. (English again) from the University of Minnesota in 1988. Jim recently retired after working for 26 years as a medical editor, mostly at Hennepin County Medical Center. He is a lifetime member of the Penn State Alumni Association and has participated in various chapter activities, including game-watch parties and other get-togethers. He regularly makes donations to Penn State through the chapter and directly to the university. Recently retired, he now looks to donate some time as well. Jim is an avid golfer and hopes that one day he will finish the novel he is struggling to write.

Rob Behler

Born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Rob Behler (HPA '93) is part of a Penn State family tradition - his father (Bob '70) and brother (Ben '08) also graduated from Penn State. While at Penn State, Rob studied Health Policy and Administration and was a member of the Nittany Lions men's rugby team, appearing in the 1992 collegiate national final four. Rob maintains his ties to the College of Health and Human Development, serving as a mentor and internship sponsor for HPA students. This is Rob's second stop in Minnesota with prior stays in Ft Smith, Arkansas and St Louis, Missouri (if his family has anything to say, they will be here for quite a while). Despite the time away from Pennsylvania and the Happy Valley, Rob's Penn State pride has never ceased and he's excited to be a part of a strong Alumni program in Minnesota. Rob currently serves as General Manager and Vice President of Medicaid Programs for Prime Therapeutics in Bloomington, Minnesota. He resides in Victoria, Minnesota with his wife, Krista (Slippery Rock) and daughter, Addison (13).

Mark Your Calendars!

August 16: Student Send-Off/ Annual Picnic

August 29:  Softball Tournament

September 5: PSU Football at Temple (2:30pm) – Season Opener!

February 19-21, 2016: THON 2016!!!

March 13-14, 2016: PSU Men's Hockey at Minnesota



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