



# Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association Annual Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY 2017

*Hello, Minnesota Nittany Nation!*

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the lovely Minnesota summer we've been having. I say it every year around this time: it's hard to believe how fast time is flying.

It has been another amazing year for our alma mater, from multiple B1G championship titles to raising more than \$10M through THON for pediatric cancer. It's been a great year for our chapter, too, from awarding our annual scholarship to a Minnesotan attending Penn State to volunteering to fight hunger through Second Harvest Heartland. We were honored once again (third straight year) to be recognized as a Group of Distinction - Laurel Level by the Penn State Alumni Association. We have a lot to be proud of all around.

For me personally, this has been my first full year as your new President, and I've never been more honored to be a part of such an amazing community of people. I want to say a special thank-you to Brian Binkley for his six years of presidency and keeping our traditions and foundation at the helm. For those of you new to our PSU-MN community or those of you who have been looking for ways to get more involved, here are a few opportunities to do just that:

- Join the Board of Directors (best in the Midwest!)
- Meet up at our fabulous football TV Tailgates
- Network with fellow alumni and make connections
- Come out and support our PSU sports teams when they take on Goldy
- Attend our annual dinner
- Join us at our annual volunteer event supporting Second Harvest Heartland
- Create Dancer Mail for our fellow Penn Staters dancing in THON

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board members for their time and dedication to our wonderful chapter: Rob Behler, Brian Binkley, Marilyn Binkley, Stephanie Brondani, Dean Creighton, Dan Gordon, Jim Kaufmann, Mantha Petrovich, Helene Slocum, and Petrina Zaraszczak. Without them, our chapter would not be making the positive impacts on our PSU-MN community.

I look forward to seeing most of you at our annual summer BBQ and student send-off on August 6. I know we just started summer, but we're less than two months away from football season, and that means we will see you in Bloomington at Poor Richard's Commonhouse! 🍷

*For the Glory,*

Emily N. Zuber, '04  
president@psumn.com



LAUREL LEVEL

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### 2017 Football Schedule:

- 09/02/17 vs AKRON
- 09/09/17 vs PITT
- 09/16/17 vs GEORGIA STATE
- 09/23/17 at IOWA
- 09/30/17 vs INDIANA
- 10/07/17 at NORTHWESTERN
- 10/14/17 - bye week
- 10/21/17 vs MICHIGAN
- 10/28/17 at OHIO STATE
- 11/04/17 at MICHIGAN STATE
- 11/11/17 vs RUTGERS
- 11/18/17 vs NEBRASKA
- 11/25/17 at MARYLAND
- 12/02/17 BIG TEN CHAMP GAME



## Scholarship Endowment: Update & 2016-17 Recipient

The book value of the endowment fund on April 20, 2017, was \$87,851.08, with a market value of \$118,400.54.

Every year we bestow a scholarship in honor of a Past President of the chapter. It is always difficult to decide which of our well-deserving applicants should be awarded the scholarship, and 2016 was no different. We had 11 outstanding applicants from a variety of Penn State campuses, as well as Penn State's online World Campus program. We looked at a variety of criteria in making our selection, including their GPA, academic achievements, activities, work experience, and leadership positions, as well as their responses on two essay questions.

For the 2016-17 year, in honor of Past President Jim Gibson, we awarded \$4500 to junior **Emma Matthys**, an Advertising major attending the University Park campus. In addition to her academic achievements, Emma is very active in campus organizations, including taking a lead position in the Fresh Start program, where she helps prepare Team Leaders to work with new freshmen on campus. As she explained it, "Team Leaders are assigned around 20 freshmen on the day of service. It is their role to help get

their group to work together in order to complete service tasks, while also making friends along the way. As a Team Leader you get to be a mentor to the freshmen and help them out with any questions they may have as they are adjusting to life on campus." Emma, as Team Leader Liaison, made sure all Team Leaders were well equipped to do this job well. Her enthusiasm, dedication to her studies, and the responsibility she feels to help others, as evidenced by her work with THON, made her a standout candidate.

All students who applied for the chapter scholarship were sent a gift card to the Student Bookstore, and students who attended the picnic also received two care packages during the academic year from the chapter, one in the fall semester and one in the winter semester. As always, we appreciate all of you for your consistent support of our local Nittany Lions, especially in the area of scholarship donations. Because of your generosity we have been able to award over \$34,000 in student scholarship funds for Minnesota students attending Penn State. 🌐

## Second Harvest Heartland Community Service Event

On Saturday, February 25, 2017, members of our chapter joined together to work at Second Harvest Heartland (SHH) in Golden Valley. Second Harvest is a large local food bank that collects food from donors and distributes it to food shelves across Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Twenty-two chapter members and their families volunteered to prepare food to be sent to those in need. We spent a couple hours working as a team to pack bulk rice into individual bags, pack the bags into boxes for shipping, and then clean up our work area. In addition, the chapter donated \$100 to SHH. After working our shift, many of us gathered at a pizza restaurant for lunch provided by the chapter.

This is the fourth consecutive year that our chapter has organized a community service event at SHH. This event has become very popular with members and their children, so look for this again late next winter. It's a chance to enjoy



*Once again Penn Staters turned out to help with the problem of hunger in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.*

being with other Penn Staters while doing something truly good for our community. At Second Harvest Heartland, they know who "we are." 🌐

## We Now Have a Chapter Historian

Even before we officially became a chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association in 1982, Penn Staters were getting together here in Minnesota as the "Penn State Club." Much information about those early "unofficial" days, and even some info about our early "official" days, has been lost. The good news is that it can be recovered, and Helene Slocum has volunteered to serve as chapter historian. The Board appointed Helene to this role at its June 2017 meeting.

Helene has access to info in the Board's possession but is also eager to hear from people who know things and have stories to share that may be in danger of being lost forever. If you have memories you would like preserved by the chapter, please contact Helene. Her email address is [Helene.Slocum@psumn.com](mailto:Helene.Slocum@psumn.com). 🌐

# TV Tailgates at Poor Richard's Commonhouse in Bloomington

For the 2016 football season, we changed to a new location for our TV Tailgates. Poor Richard's Commonhouse in Bloomington (on Normandale Blvd., just south of I-494) is closer to more Penn State fans than was our previous location. And turnout proved it. We opened the season with about 40 people watching the Lions comfortably defeat Kent State, and closed the season with about 40 people watching the Rose Bowl roller coaster, where the Lions came up on the short end of a 52-49 shootout against USC.



Thrills along the way included: 29-26 overtime win versus previously undefeated Minnesota; 38-14 win over previously undefeated Maryland; the stunning 24-21 upset of Ohio State; multi-TD wins over others, culminat-

ing on November 26 in the 45-12 defeat of Michigan State, which allowed the Lions to advance to the Big Ten Championship game, where a 38-31 comeback win over Wisconsin earned the Lions their Rose Bowl appearance.

A great thing about the TV Tailgates at Poor Richard's is that we have our own room. Having a room to ourselves enhances camaraderie and a feeling of community among us Penn Staters. Ohio State has a room of its own for their game-watch parties, and Iowa fans also show up to watch their Hawkeyes. And of course, Gopher fans are often milling about as well. It's a great place to be on Saturdays in the fall.



We'll be back at Poor Richard's again for the 2017 football season. Mark your calendar now: the first game is on Saturday, September 2, against the University of Akron. Game time is 11:00 AM Central. We'll be at Poor Richard's waiting for you! 🐾

## Annual Dinner: April 22, 2017



Poor Richard's Commonhouse in Bloomington worked out so well for our TV Tailgates that we had our annual dinner there, too. We set the date for April 22, to coincide with the live broadcast of the annual Blue-White Game.

Blue won, 26-0, with QB Tommy Stevens having an even better game than QB Trace McSorley, with RB Mark Allen the day's leading rusher (Saquon Barkley didn't play).

Football viewing wasn't the biggest part of the event, however. Eating was. Poor Richard's worked with us to present "A Taste of Pennsylvania" menu that included Philly cheesesteak sliders, kielbasa, pierogi, haluski (all those as appetizers), pork and sauerkraut, halupki/stuffed cabbage, salad, veggies, fruit, and Middleswarth potato chips (as the main meal), and TastyKakes, shoo fly pie, Philly soft pretzels, and Hershey chocolate (for dessert). Rolling Rock beer was also available



for those who enjoy that Pennsylvania favorite.

Events during the dinner included a silent auction that raised \$574 for our scholarship fund, the presentation of appreciation certificates (and coupons redeemable at Poor Richard's) to member households achieving milestones in their chapter membership, and a Penn State Trivia contest among tables.



Of special interest was a PSU flag Dean Creighton brought to the event. His niece's fiancé, Capt. Samuel Blakely, is a flight instructor stationed in Afghanistan. He has a Master's degree (in Nuclear Engineering) from Penn State. He's taken this flag with him on missions, and it flew it over his base on the day of the Rose Bowl.

As always, it was a team effort the Board to organize the dinner. Particular thanks go to Rob Behler for all the work he did in planning and coordinating with the staff at Poor Richard's. If you missed it this year, we hope to see you at our next annual affair! 🐾

# Big Ten Alumni Softball Tournament



So close! We nearly won the 2016 tournament!

The event, in which Minnesotans who are alums of Big Ten schools take to the diamond in friendly competition, was held on Sunday, August 28, 2016, at the Mendakota Community Park in Mendota Heights. In Game 1, we beat the Badgers, 6-5. In Game 2, we hammered the Hoosiers, 17-1. In



Game 3, we blew up the Buckeyes, 18-5. Game 4 (the semi-finals), versus the Wolverines, was interesting: due to time constraints, it ended in an 8-8 tie. Which team would go to the finals? After some deliberation, it was ruled that the Lions would advance, having scored more runs in their previous games than the Wolverines had in theirs.

Alas, the streak was not to continue, as our Lions met the Gophers for the title. We led after one inning, but the Gophers scored steadily, finally ending the game, via the

10-run rule, by scoring big in the bottom of the fifth. Many thanks to Captain Eric Strouse and all who played!

This year's tournament will be held on Sunday, August 27, at the same location. Things get started around 8 AM or 9 AM (more details later). Join us for all or part of the day, as a fan or player. If you want to play (you don't need to be good; this is for fun), contact Eric at [softball@psumn.com](mailto:softball@psumn.com) or Emily at [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com).



## It's That Time Again: Time to Join (or Re-Join) the Chapter

Time flies, huh? Here it is July already, which marks the beginning of our chapter year (July 1 to June 30). That means it's time to support your local chapter with a mere **\$25 in dues** (cost of a tank of gas); this covers your entire household. The money helps with operating expenses and also lets us build up our scholarship fund. As the chapter is able, it also donates to THON, Second Harvest Heartland, and Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. You can definitely feel good about helping your chapter.

With this newsletter is a membership form. Simply complete the form and send it in with your dues, as directed on the form. If you send more than \$25 (some do), use the bottom of the form to indicate where you want the extra to go (e.g., scholarship fund). You can also order chapter shirts. Thank you! We really do appreciate it.

## Board Positions Available

And in related news: If you would like to be a little more involved in the chapter, send an email to Emily Zuber at [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com). As a Board member, what would you be committing to? Attending a monthly meeting (usually the first Sunday, from 5 PM till 7 PM) and heading up some aspect of the chapter's work. Right now, we'd love to have a Social Chair, who would propose and organize a social event or two besides the ones we're currently offering. We'd also love to have a THON Chair, who would coordinate our support of THON dancers (e.g., by hosting a "mail call" party where attendees write messages to be given to dancers during THON weekend). We are of course open to other suggestions.

You've heard the phrase "Many hands make light work"? That's certainly true for an all-volunteer Board like ours. If you'd like to help out, send Emily an email. Thanks!

## 2016 Summer BBQ & Student Send-Off



Our chapter's annual summer BBQ and student send-off was held on August 7, 2016. Forty-four Penn State alumni and students gathered at Dan Gordon's home in Plymouth. The weather was superb. The picnic featured hot dogs, brats, pulled pork sandwiches, salads, and desserts provided by the chapter. We also

had a lively game of cornhole with the newly constructed boards. We were pleased to see so many alumni attend this event. Two students were in attendance. One student was our 2015 scholarship winner and the other a World Campus student. The students had an opportunity to meet alumni and recent grads from Penn State.

Each year during the picnic our scholarship winner is announced. Emma Mathys, a junior Advertising major from Ely,



was the 2016 winner. We also had a special guest: Paul Clifford, CEO of the Penn State Alumni Association. Paul was able to meet many of our chapter members and discuss chapter activities with our Board members. Paul gave a short talk to the attendees about the alumni association. 🗣️

## 2017 BBQ & Send-Off: August 6! (RSVP to Dan)

We'll gather again at Dan Gordon's home (12840 54th Ave N, Plymouth) from 3 PM to 6 PM on Sunday, August 6. Festivities will include the first annual cornhole tournament, a raffle for two PSU football tickets, and the announcement of this year's scholarship winner. For PSU students attending, there will be a drawing for a \$250 gift certificate to Amazon or the Penn State Student Bookstore, to help with book expenses in the coming year. All Penn State alumni are welcome. You needn't be a chapter member to attend. [RSVP electronically to dan.gordon@psumn.com](mailto:dan.gordon@psumn.com). 🗣️

## Penn State Trivia: How Many Can You Get Correct?

1. When was the Nittany Lion adopted as the official mascot? A) 1923, B) 1906, C) 1938, D) 1912.
2. When was the Lion Shrine unveiled? A) 1941, B) 1938, C) 1947, D) 1950.
3. Which toy did 1939 graduate Richard James invent?
4. In 1924, which sports team was the first team to win a national championship for Penn State?
5. Who was Penn State's first 1000-yard rusher?
6. What was Joe Paterno's major at Brown University?
7. Who did PSU play in its first official football game in 1887?
8. Which Big Ten team did PSU play in its first Big Ten game (as a member of the Big Ten)?
9. When was Penn State founded (month, day, year)?
10. What's the oldest building on campus?

Answers: 1) 1906; 2) 1941; 3) Slinky; 4) Boxing; 5) Lenny Moore; 6) English; 7) Bucknell; 8) Minnesota; 9) Feb 22, 1855; 10) Old Main.

## Treasurer's Report, from Dean Creighton

As of the end of May 2017, the chapter's checking account balance was \$6495, and the savings account balance was just over \$500. During the fiscal year, the chapter passed on member contributions to THON that totaled \$325. In addition, the chapter contributed \$100 to Second Harvest Heartland food bank (see photo) and \$160 to Prevent Child



Abuse Minnesota. The proceeds from the Blue and White dinner silent auction totaled \$574; this amount will go toward our chapter scholarship fund.

The chapter sincerely thanks its dues-paying members and all others who have contributed something, making it possible to do the good work we do. 🗣️

## Dan Gordon (ChE, 1975): My Penn State Story

I grew up near a small town called Venus, Pennsylvania. The town had about 200 people, and it was on the border of Clarion and Venango counties, and about a mile and a half away from where I lived. I went to high school at North Clarion, which had about 450 students in grades 7 to 12. My high school graduating class was 72. I liked science and math. I also liked to fix and build things. This area of Pennsylvania was known for its farms, woodlands, and strip mining. Aside from farming or driving coal trucks, there were not a lot of job opportunities in the area. I had a strong desire to get a job that would pay good money and allow me to explore beyond Clarion County. I looked at various majors and decided Chemical Engineering would be a good fit. It leveraged my chemistry interest and my engineering skills. Clarion did not have an engineering department so I looked at Penn State and Pitt. I chose Penn State. The rural setting was a better fit with my upbringing than the Pittsburgh urban environment.

My uncle had attended Penn State about eight years earlier so I was a little familiar with the campus; however, no one in my class or the three classes that graduated before me attended Penn State. Most from North Clarion went to Clarion College, Edinboro, or Slippery Rock. When I arrived on campus I knew no one. My mom helped me move into my room at 612 Mifflin. It was the typical dorm, with block cinder walls painted a dirty shade of blue, a long desk with multiple drawers for two people, a couple cots covered with dark blue wool blankets, a credenza above, and a closet for my clothes. The room was slightly smaller than my bedroom at home, and I was to share it with someone I did not know and had not shown up yet. I picked the cot near the window since I had first choice and unpacked. My mom left, and at that point it was the loneliest I had ever felt then or since. I knew absolutely no one in a campus of 30,000 and a place 100 miles from home. Fortunately, my roommate showed up an hour later. He was from Pittsburgh and a large high school and had friends across the campus. The first weekend was spent finding his other friends and checking out their dorms in East and North halls. I would spend my four years at Penn State in the same room in Mifflin. I liked the fact that I was on the top floor with no one above me. We were close to the end with little noise, and the location was great for classes. Little did I know that almost forty years later my son would

be a freshman at Penn State and would be assigned to the same sixth floor of Mifflin Hall.

Freshmen arriving on campus in the fall had to register for classes. Upperclassmen registered at the end of the semester. You were assigned a starting time to report to Rec Hall based on the first letter of your last name. Unfortunately, I registered on the last day and close to the last starting hour. You were given a tan envelope containing a master punch card that would enable you to get your student ID and classes. Your Social Security number was your student ID number. You started with a list of classes that you would need to take. You wound your way around the inside of Rec Hall, stopping at a few matriculation stations, until you entered onto the gym floor. Around the perimeter would be tables for each department with a big sign showing the department's name. Each department would have computer cards for each class they offered. If you needed English 1, you would go to the College of Liberal Arts. and ask for an English 1 card. For English 1, there could be over twenty sections meeting at various times. You needed to keep track of when the class was so that when you went to the Math department to get Math 61, you would not get a section that would conflict. Two of my four classes met in the morning on Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday (yes, there were Saturday classes then). One of those was Biology Sciences 3. It was not on my original list of classes but it satisfied an elective and was available. The first class was on Tuesday in the Forum building. This was a full class. There were more students in that room than in my entire junior and senior high school! It was a bit intimidating.

The worst part was that it got out late on Saturday. At that time, the football games started at 1 PM. I would rush from the Forum to McElwain to grab a quick something to eat, to Mifflin to drop off my stuff, and then up to Beaver Stadium to get a seat in the freshman section. In the 1970s, that was on the south side of the stadium. The north side was fairly open, with the scoreboard being on that side. You could purchase tickets at \$12 per season or \$2 per game. Tickets came in a little booklet; you tore off the ticket for the specific game you were attending. There was no

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## Dean Creighton (Food Science, 1980): My Penn State Story

I grew up in a Penn State family in northeastern PA, in the small town of Honesdale. My father, brother, sister, brother and sister-in-law, and numerous aunts and uncles are Penn Staters. In addition, my father was a county agricultural extension director for Wayne County, so he was an employee of Penn State. I remember growing up and watching Nittany Lion football games on our black-and-white TV, and just always knew that I would be going to Penn State.

Having grown up always participating in 4-H and raising animals for the Wayne County Fair, and thinking that I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps, I started out at Penn State majoring in Animal Science. I soon realized that was not my passion. I was interested in science and chemistry, etc., so one day I walked into Borland Lab to see what Food Science was all about. On that day I met Dr. Ed Glass. He talked to me about what Food Science students studied and what Food Science graduates did. After he showed me the labs and research facilities, I had pretty much made up my mind that this was what I was looking for. During my time at PSU studying Food Science, I had the opportunity

to work for a summer at Hanover Brands in Centre Hall, and then do an internship at Hershey Foods.

I brag about the fact that in four years at PSU, I only missed two home football games. One was for my sister's wedding (still haven't forgiven her) and the other during my freshman year when I didn't want to sit in the pouring rain watching Penn State play Army. I also became a passionate PSU wrestling fan, and continue following them very closely.

After my Penn State days, I moved west to Manhattan, Kansas, to graduate school at Kansas State University. I then eventually found my way to Minneapolis to work for General Mills. I have been at General Mills for 28 years now in research and development. My wife Barbara and I have two grown children that we are very proud of and who have begun their own successful careers. 🌐

## Dan Gordon (continued)

lottery for tickets. Everyone could go, and the student section was full each game. The 1972 team had Lydell Mitchell, Franco Harris, and John Hufnagel in the backfield. Mitchell was the star that year, with 29 touchdowns. It was a great time to be a fan. My high school was too small to support a football team, so this was my first experience watching games live. In the four years I was at Penn State, the football team lost only five games. I went to every home game, rain or shine. I watched the Goodyear blimp overhead for one game and the scoreboard get totally shorted out during a rain storm for the Navy game. Having so many people cheering and supporting the team and Penn State really made an impression on me. Even though I was on a big campus, after a few weeks I was getting to like this new environment, classes with hundreds, dinner with hundreds, and football games with thousands... and I feeling like I belonged there. 🌐



## *Mark Your Calendar!*

**August 6:** Summer BBQ & Student Send-Off

**August 27:**  Softball Tournament

**September 2:** PSU Football vs Akron – Season Opener!

**October 13-14:** PSU Men's Hockey at Minnesota

**February 16-18, 2018:** THON!



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