



# Minnesota Chapter Penn State Alumni Association Annual Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY 2018

*Greetings, Minnesota Nittany Nation!*

Can you even believe that another year has already passed and you're reading yet another edition of our fabulous newsletter?! I myself am having a difficult time wrapping my head around that fact and the fact that it's been two years now since I had the opportunity to become President of this wonderful chapter. I cannot say Thank You enough to *you* for your continued support of both our chapter and our university.

We've had another prosperous year as a chapter, and you will get the opportunity to read through our many accomplishments throughout the newsletter, from our 2017-2018 scholarship winners to our best membership year in a decade, not to mention our annual dinner raising money for our scholarship endowment and our chapter. Our alma mater had another stellar year, with our wrestling team clinching the 2018 NCAA national title, our men's basketball team winning the 2018 NIT championship, our women's soccer team winning the 2017 B1G title, our women's volleyball team sharing the B1G title with Nebraska, and finally our football team making the trip to Tempe, Arizona, for a Fiesta Bowl victory... and let's also not forget the efforts of THON, which raised \$10,151,663.93 to fight pediatric cancer! Okay, that may have been a run-on sentence, but it just goes to show what a great university we come from!

Before I let you get to the good stuff, I want to take this opportunity to thank each Board member for their time and dedication to our wonderful chapter: Petrina Zaraszczak, Jim Kaufmann, Dean Creighton, Stephanie Brondani, Dan Gordon, Brian Binkley, and Helene Slocum. I know I've said it before, but our chapter would cease to exist without their continued efforts and dedication. THANK YOU!

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 at Poor Richard's in Bloomington
- Network with fellow alumni and make connections
- Come out and support our PSU sports teams when they take on Goldy and the Gophers
- Attend our chapter's annual dinner
- Join us at our annual volunteer event supporting Second Harvest Heartland
- Create Dancer Mail for our fellow Penn Staters dancing in THON

Well, friends, that's all from me for now. Thank you again for all you do, and I hope to see you at our annual BBQ & Student Send-Off on July 29. 🍷

*For the Glory,*

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

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### 2018 Football Schedule:

09/01/18 vs APPALACHIAN STATE
09/08/18 at PITT
09/15/18 vs KENT STATE
09/21/18 at ILLINOIS
09/29/18 vs OHIO STATE
10/06/18 – bye week
10/13/18 vs MICHIGAN STATE
10/20/18 at INDIANA
10/27/18 vs IOWA
11/03/18 at MICHIGAN
11/10/18 vs WISCONSIN
11/17/18 at RUTGERS
11/24/18 vs MARYLAND
12/01/18 BIG TEN CHAMP GAME



## Scholarship Endowment: Update & 2017-18 Recipients

The book value of the endowment fund on April 20, 2018, was \$88,022.03, with a market value of \$125,326.34.

This year we had a record number of students apply for the Past President's Scholarship, sixteen in all. There were so many excellent candidates that we couldn't, in the end, select only one. Rather than award the total amount to one student, we divided the award between two students, both of whom attend Penn State's World Campus. **Isaac Jensen** and **Joseph Krohn** each received \$2370. These two students stood out for their achievements academically as well as personally,

Isaac, in addition to being a full-time student, is a volunteer firefighter and until recently was a member of the United States Army Reserves. It was during a deployment to the Horn of Africa that he realized his calling in life and knew he wanted to return to college. Because he was building a family here in Minnesota, he knew Penn State's World Campus was the best fit for his college education, and he is embracing it fully. He has recently started a freelance consulting business and will use his degree to enhance his business and as a springboard to continue giving back to his community.

Joseph is an Assistant General Manager for SpringHill Suites by Marriott and also a full-time student. He is goal

driven and is always aspiring to improve himself both personally and professionally. Knowing he wanted to put as much into his education as possible, he chose to step back from a prior position as General Manager of the hotel and may return to that position upon graduation. Joseph was incredibly grateful to receive this scholarship, which will enable him to complete his degree in Psychology. His college path has been a long and winding road, mainly due to financial limitations that required him to take a break from school so he could earn the money to continue. In addition to school and work, he enjoys time outside fishing, hiking, and camping.

All students who applied for the chapter scholarship were sent a \$20 gift card to the Student Book Store, and students who attended the picnic were put into a raffle for a \$250 gift card to either the Penn State Student Book Store or Amazon, whichever they preferred. Salix Iverson, attending Penn State's University Park campus, won the gift card. As always, we appreciate all of you for your consistent support of our local 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 17, 2018, members of our chapter gathered in the morning 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-five chapter members and their families volunteered to package food to be sent to those in need. We spent a couple hours working as a team to pack bulk rice into individual bags and pack the bags into boxes for shipping to area food banks. As in other years, the chapter donated \$100 to SHH. And as has become tradition after this event, we met for lunch at Frankie's Pizza in New Hope.

This volunteer event has become one of the most popular activities of the chapter, except of course for the football game-watch parties. So we will definitely do this again this coming winter. It's a chance to enjoy being with other Penn Staters while doing something truly good for our community. 🍷



# TV Tailgates at Poor Richard's Commonhouse in Bloomington

If you'd gone to all 13 TV Tailgates we held at Poor Richard's Commonhouse in Bloomington (on Normandale Blvd., just south of I-494), you'd have gone home happy 11 times. That's how many times our Lions came up winners in 2017. The high point of the season definitely was the last play in the Lions' 21-19 victory over the Hawkeyes in Iowa City, with Trace McSorley tossing a TD pass to Juwan Johnson as time expired. Also notable: the Lions' 42-13 drubbing of Michigan. And for the Fiesta Bowl, we packed the Franklin Room to watch the Lions beat Washington 35-28 and finish the season ranked #8 in the country.

So now we're looking forward to another great year at Poor Richard's, starting on September 1, when the season opens at home against the Appalachian State Mountaineers. Trace McSorley will be back, but gone will be Saquon Barkley, Mike Gesicki, DaeSean Hamilton, and nine



defensive starters, including Marcus Allen. Also gone is last year's offensive coordinator, Joe Moorhead (off to head-coach at Mississippi State). Fortunately, James Franklin has recruited well, so there will be talent on the field, but these younger players will need some experience. It will be fun watching them come along.



Poor Richard's is a great place to be on a Saturday in the fall. We're in our room, Ohio State alums are in their room, and Iowa alums watch Hawkeye games there, too (no private room for them). Plus there are usually some Gopher fans hanging around. So come on out and get in on the fun. Emily puts the cowbell to good use in leading the P-S-U chant after a score, and there's free stuff for attendees and a chance to play our bingo-like LIONS game (to benefit our scholarship fund). Hope to see you there... about 13 times!



## Annual Dinner: April 22, 2017

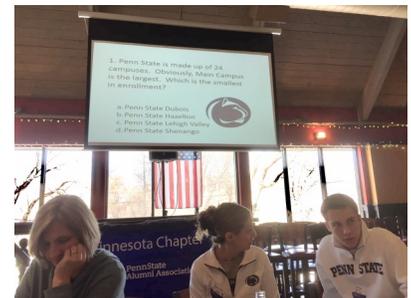


Poor Richard's Commonhouse in Bloomington again served as the location for our chapter's annual dinner, held in the afternoon on Saturday, April 21, 2018. On the TV screens, we had the Blue-White Game, being broadcast live from Beaver Stadium (Blue team won, 21-10; Saquon Barkley's shoes were conspicuously unfilled). On the menu were some Pennsylvania favorites, including pierogies, pork & sauerkraut, and Middleswarth and Utz potato chips (maybe Wise chips next year?), along with more generic offerings such as veggies, salad, wings, cookies and dessert bars.

The silent auction is a standard feature at our annual dinner, with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Numerous items were on offer, including an unopened box of Wheaties



with Joe Paterno on the front, a basket with books and wine (instant book club), a good supply of Tastykakes, and various other things. Winners were happy with their acquisitions, and the auction raised \$630 for scholarship, which is somewhat more than last year's silent auction raised. Thanks to all who participated! Thanks also to those who paid \$5 to play in our "Heads or Tails" game (attend next year and see how it works); this raised another \$60 for scholarship.



Besides socializing with friends not seen since football season, attendees heard reports from chapter officers, and members reaching membership milestones were acknowledged. We also enjoyed playing Penn State Trivia, led by gamemaster Dean Creighton, who once again stumped us with intriguing little-known facts about our alma mater and its graduates. All in all, it was another good time at Poor Richard's, our home away from home, i.e., Happy Valley. 🍷

# Big Ten Alumni Softball Tournament

This annual event was held on Sunday, August 27, 2017, at the Mendakota Community Park in Mendota Heights. We lost our opening game to Nebraska, and... well, things didn't get much better after that. Still, it's about camaraderie, and all had a good time. Many thanks to Captain Eric Strouse and all who played.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 25, at the same location. Things get started around 8 AM or 9 AM. 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), send an email to [softball@psumn.com](mailto:softball@psumn.com) or [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com).



## Update from Chapter Historian, Helene Slocum

As the chapter historian, I am the record keeper for the chapter. My goal is to create a chronicle of events from years gone by and to inform the chapter members of chapter milestones and relevant accomplishments. I will do that by researching, recording, collecting, and interpreting past events as documented in pertinent sources. These sources include institutional reports and other chapter documents, photographs, and interviews with members, friends of the University, and the Alumni Association .

I began having conversations this year with a handful of members/former members to begin to create a more formal historical record of the chapter. I learned that there is a

wealth of information to be gathered and organized. My plan for this year is to expand the group of individuals with whom I will meet. From that group, I hope to collect stories, memories, and photographs relating to key areas of alumni involvement. I want to make certain that I am including everyone who has memories to be preserved and/or has been involved with the club since its inception. So, please reach out to me at [Helene.Slocum@psumn.com](mailto:Helene.Slocum@psumn.com) to set up a meeting, have a conversation, or pass along archival documents.



## Time to Join (or Re-Join) the Chapter

It's July, which marks the beginning of our chapter year. 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. Don't delay... join (or re-join) today!

## Lifetime Chapter Membership Now An Option

On the membership form, you'll see that if you send in \$300, you'll be a chapter member for life. And it covers not just you, but everyone in your entire household. Never worry about annual dues again!

## Want to Help Run the Chapter?

Our chapter is managed by members who volunteer for the glory of Old State. If you'd like to be a little more involved in the chapter, send an email to Emily Zuber at [president@psumn.com](mailto:president@psumn.com). 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. Many hands make light work. If you'd like to help out, send Emily an email. Thanks!

## 2017 Summer BBQ & Student Send-Off



The Minnesota Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association held its annual summer BBQ and student send-off on August 6, 2017. Thirty-nine Penn State alumni and students gathered for the eighth year in a row at Dan Gordon's home in Plymouth. We were pleased to see so many alumni attend this event on a potentially rainy day.

The picnic featured hot dogs, brats, salads, and desserts provided by the chapter. This year we instituted our first annual beanbag toss tournament using our newly constructed Penn State boards. The tournament winners were a future 2022 graduate and his sister. They received a case of Middleswarth potato chips. Three freshman students were in attendance in addition to ten parents and siblings of students. The students had an opportunity to meet alumni and recent grads from Penn State. Students attending the picnic were entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift certificate for books. Salix

Iverson was this year's winner. At the picnic, our 2017-2018 scholarship winner was announced. Actually, this year the results were so close we decided to award two winners, Isaac Jenson and Joseph Krohn, each receiving \$2370. The scholarship was based on the student's demonstration of academic and leadership skills as well as responses to two essay questions. To support our scholarship fund, we raffled off two tickets to the Penn State – Pitt game. We were fortunate that the rain held off for the entire afternoon, allowing all to have a very enjoyable time.



## 2018 BBQ & Send-Off: Sunday, July 29! (RSVP to Dan)

This year's BBQ and Student Send-Off will be held again at Dan Gordon's home: 12840 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. N in Plymouth. The event will be from 3 PM to 6 PM on Sunday, July 29, 2018, and will feature the second annual beanbag toss tournament. Penn State alums together with their friends and family are welcome. You don't need to be a chapter member to attend. **RSVP electronically** to Dan at: [dan.gordon@psumn.com](mailto:dan.gordon@psumn.com). 

## Treasurer's Report, from Dean Creighton

As of mid-June 2018, the chapter's checking account balance was \$3464, and the savings account balance was just over \$7900. The proceeds from the silent auction at our annual dinner (on April 21, 2018) totaled \$630; this amount will go toward our chapter scholarship fund. The chapter's Board hopes to be able to make another significant payment to our scholarship endowment fund soon. The Board wishes to thank all members who have contributed toward our scholarship fund beyond their annual membership dues.

During the fiscal year, the chapter passed on member contributions to THON that totaled \$200 and also donated \$100 to Second Harvest Heartland (see photo at right). 



## Emily N. Zuber (LIR, 2004): My Penn State Story

My PSU story starts way before I was even born. You see, I am the youngest of five girls, and by youngest I mean there is a 19-year difference between myself and my oldest sister. That means I was still in the womb as my two oldest sisters were embarking on *their* PSU journeys.

My first memory of Penn State was attending my oldest sister's graduation at Beaver Stadium back in 1984, when I was at the tender age of 3 years old. From that point forward, I knew that I was destined to bleed blue and white. Because I was the youngest, my sisters would always ask Mom to send me to PSU for weekends whenever they were feeling homesick. Thankfully, we were only two hours away from Happy Valley, so it wasn't much to ask. We had the best tailgates in the '80s. We had our Winnebago stocked with snacks and Coca-Cola Classic, not to mention Mom's famous scrambled eggs with ham and egg noodles (don't knock it till you try it, my friends). Those football Saturdays are still among my most favorite memories. The energy of all the PSU fans, the tradition, and let's not forget the students that walked around with blue face paint and a Q Tip in hand and getting that paw print placed before kick-off while also making sure not to accidentally wipe it off (always a challenge).

I continued to attend Penn State football games throughout my high school years, too. I even got the opportunity to attend the Lady Lions basketball camp two summers in a row. I just couldn't get enough of it! The more I visited the University, the more I knew I wanted to be a true Nittany Lion for life. However, I also had a love for the sport of basketball and that love diverted me away from Penn State. My path took me to play Division 3 basketball at Alvernia University, where I excelled my freshman year. But during mid-season of my sophomore year, I knew that there was a void in my life and I wouldn't be complete unless I received a diploma from The Pennsylvania State University .

So, I got back on the PSU path and transferred to University Park, starting there in the Fall 2001 semester. I got involved in the Club Basketball community and thought hard about walking onto the Lady Lions, but I had already gotten a college basketball experience – albeit nothing like Division 1, but I had already tried that path. This time, I

wanted to experience Penn State through a different lens. This took me to joining a social-service sorority, where I was able to flourish as an individual. I was exposed for the first time to the Penn State Dance Marathon, and ensured I would stay involved through graduation, which I did, holding committee positions my first two years and working up to a captain spot my senior year. I was Homecoming Chair in 2002, when I received the honor of walking in the parade, with our float winning a few trophies (which, yes, I still have). And, in 2002, I held our Social Chair position, which gave me the opportunity to really test out my planning skills, which I continue to use to this day!

There is so much I'm leaving out of my story, but the best part about telling you bits and pieces of it is that my fellow Penn Staters know exactly what I'm talking about. It's just that thing we all have with each other, no matter what state or country we are in: we all speak the same Penn State language. You all know what I'm talking about when I say that there is just something special about Happy Valley, something you just cannot put it into words. It is a feeling that only a true Penn Stater understands. I'm so grateful to still have a connection to our great University via the PSUMN Chapter. Because Penn State will always be a part of me and provided me with uncountable opportunities, I'm more than willing to give the same effort back. That is truly where my heart lies. It is my Happy Place.

We Are! 

[See page 7 for photos of Emily as a new PSU grad!]

# Petrina Zuber Zaraszczak (ChE, 1994): My Penn State Love Story

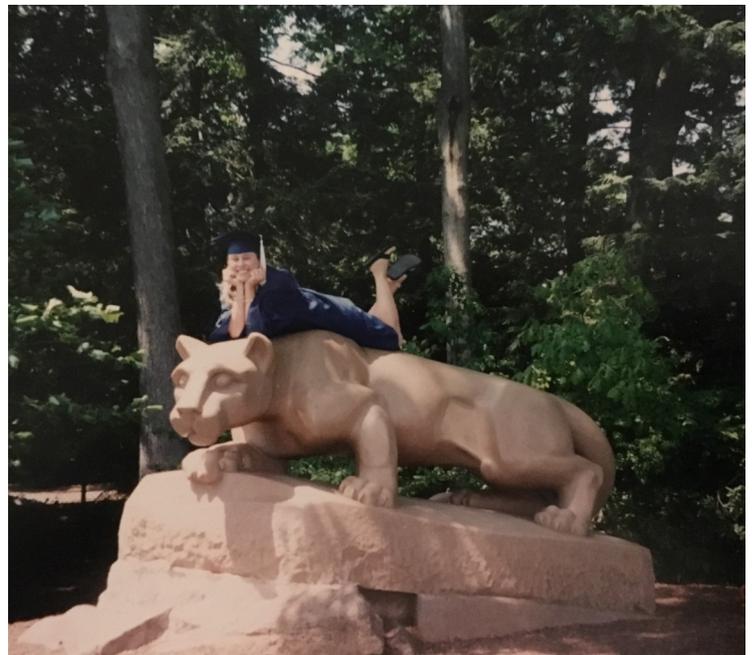
The date was September 13, 1989. I *finally* met the boy that gave me butterflies every time I saw him. A friend of mine was tired of hearing me talk about this boy named Eli. This friend took me to Eli's apartment and said, "I have someone who wants to meet you." This was following weeks of my staring at Eli sitting in front of me in Chemistry and the numerous times he had to collect pencils or rulers that "accidentally" fell off my drafting desk in Engineering Graphics.

We met at Penn State Schuylkill. I was a commuter student and, as a native of Queens, he lived in on-campus apartments. As freshmen engineering students (Eli later changed his major to Computer Science), we had many classes together. Our Physics 201 professor was notorious for using students' names in exam questions. We were highlighted in an exam question where students had to calculate the force that pushed us apart. Clearly our professor had it all wrong, as there was no force strong enough to push us apart.

We dated our entire time at Penn State Schuylkill and at the University Park campus. There were many strolls together on campus, we never missed a home football game, and I lost count of the number of visits to the Creamery.

We were married on September 13, 1997. This year we will celebrate our twenty-first wedding anniversary and our twenty-ninth year together. Penn State remains an important part of our lives and our children's lives. Petro, born in 2004, and Anna, born in 2007, knew the response to "We Are" before the age of two and talk of attending Penn State one day.

I thank my lucky stars for the great education I received at Penn State and for finding the love of my life!



*Mark Your Calendar!*

**July 28:** Big Ten Alumni Volleyball Tournament

**July 29:** Summer BBQ & Student Send-Off

**August 25:** Big Ten Alumni Softball Tournament

**Sept 1:** PSU Football vs Appalachian State – Season Opener!

**February 15-17, 2019:** THON



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