

The Lion's Tale

The Official Newsletter of the Central Maryland Penn State Alumni Chapter

Issue 2 — 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Official! The Central Maryland Chapter, having just been conceived in May, 2008, was on probationary status with the Penn State Alumni Association for one year. During that year, our fledgling Chapter became 125 members strong with a full slate of activities and events aimed at growing and fortifying a strong new chapter.

Armed with this information, on Friday, April 24, 2009, the Penn State Alumni Association's Executive Board recommended to the full Alumni Council that the Central Maryland Chapter be approved as an official Chapter of the Alumni Association. I am happy to report that Alumni Council took the recommendation and the charter was approved unanimously! In fact, we understand that the Alumni Association is very interested in our Chapter as a group on the rise.

I encourage you to come out and join us for one of our events to see for yourself what so many are learning – there is a great way to meet and interact with other local alumni right in our area! We look forward to seeing you.

*Paul Danielson – President
PSUCentralMD@gmail.com*

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SOCIAL DATES

Keep your calendars updated with a list of upcoming PSU Central Maryland Events! Visit the chapter website for details: www.psucentralmd.org

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| June 6 | Basignani Winery Tour |
| June 11 | Happy Hour at Clyde's of Columbia |
| June 13 | NYC Bus Trip with Annapolis Chapter |
| July 9 | Happy Hour at Nottingham's |
| July TBD | Frederick Keys Baseball game |
| August 6 | Annual Freshmen Send-off |
| August 13 | Happy Hour at Pub Dog Pizza & Drafthouse |
| Sept. 5 | PSU 2009 FOOTBALL SEASON BEGINS! |

EVENING WITH JOE PATERNO

Local Penn State alumni and fans had a wonderful opportunity to participate in an "An Evening With Joe Paterno" on May 5, 2009 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA.

The event was co-sponsored by the Nittany Lion Club and the Penn State Alumni Association.

Five of our board members got to meet legendary Coach Paterno and Tim Curley, Director of Athletics. In addition, Roger Williams, Alumni Association President, recognized the Central Maryland Chapter as the newest official Penn State Alumni Chapter during the event. What a fun evening!





CLIPPER CITY BREWERY TOUR AND TASTING

On Saturday March 21 our chapter sampled the best of Baltimore with a lunch at Timbuktu Restaurant in Hanover followed by a tour and beer tasting at the Clipper Brewing Company in Baltimore. Lunch at Timbuktu was a tasty affair with the overwhelming favorite dish at the table being crab cakes, a specialty of the house. The lunch was leisurely and delicious and everyone left satisfied, looking forward to learning about the brewing process and tasting the beers at Clipper City Brewing Company.

Clipper City general partner and beer aficionado Hugh Sisson led our chapter members on a 45 minute tour of Clipper City's facilities and described every step of the beer making process for us. Not only were we treated to Hugh's philosophies on beer and relaxation (both priorities for him!), but the tour also included opportunities to sample the fragrance of the dried hops Clipper City uses to flavor their beers as well as taste one of the malts that Clipper City uses to make their beers. There was a consensus, amongst at least some chapter members, that the hops would make a wonderful potpourri!

While engineers in the group were especially interested in the complex bottling process used to preserve beer after it has been brewed, the entire group was fascinated by the intricacies of the brewing process and the steps Clipper City takes to ensure the quality of their product.

Of course no trip to a brewery would be complete without a tasting, and Clipper City does a great one! As part of the visit each member was able to purchase a set of tasting chips to (generously) sample any of the beers on tap that day, including a few seasonal beers, in a souvenir pint glass! Whether one is a fan of traditional ales and lagers or more strongly flavored doppelbocks and hop cubed beers, everyone enjoyed the afternoon at Clipper City Brewing Company! www.ccbeer.com

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK AND FIELD AND BOCCIE VOLUNTEER

On Saturday May 9th, several current members (and some hopefully soon-to-be members) from



the Penn State Alumni Association Central Maryland chapter volunteered their time at the Howard County Special Olympics Track and Field and Bocce Competitions. Our volunteers took the



lead in setting up the Bocce courts and by the Opening Ceremonies their hard work had 5 courts ready on the lacrosse field's Bermuda grass. The volunteers from our chapter then provided scoring and officiating throughout the day on the Bocce courts. >>

BOCCE (cont.)

Although the day dawned muggy and with the threat of thunderstorms, by 9AM the sun was out, the fields were bustling with activity, and the athletes were pumped for competition. After an inspiring Opening Ceremonies the games were on! Teams from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties all took part in the competition and gave it their best! Notable performances were turned in by teams from every county.

Another notable performance was turned in by our volunteers who had to learn the rules for competitive Bocce on the fly! It was truly inspiring to watch the athletes in action and afterward to have them come up to us and express their excitement and gratitude.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make these games successful for the athletes: John M., Jen and Chris L., Richard S., Suzanne H., Ned B., Donna K., Kathy and Dave B., Dan and Hope K., and Mike J.

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again – renew your membership in the Central Maryland Chapter of the Penn State, the fastest growing chapter in the United States. Not sure how we prove that statistic, but since we started with zero members last January, percentage-wise we have to be the fastest growing one! We ended our 2008-2009 membership year with 124 members – thanks to everyone who joined last year!

You can join our chapter regardless of your alumni status with Penn State – you don't have to be a Penn State alumnus nor do you have to be a current member of the Penn State Alumni Association – you just have to be Penn State Proud!

We offer both individual (\$15 per year) and joint memberships (\$25 per year). We accept check or cash -- but not credit cards or PayPal yet.

Our membership year runs from May 1st, 2009 to April 30th, 2010.

Unfortunately, we do not offer prorated or half-year rates at this point. Membership forms and application directions can be found on our website at <http://www.psucentralmd.org/pages/join.html>.

Now that we are formally recognized as an alumni chapter by Penn State, please consider joining or renewing your membership to support our chapter and its goals of friendship, service, recruiting, and networking!

Some of the many benefits of membership in the PSU Central MD Alumni Chapter are:

- Meet new Penn State friends, family, and professional contacts in the Central Maryland area.
- Share Penn State memories with fellow alumni.
- Impart Penn State pride to new and returning students.
- Socialize and mingle with other Penn Staters during football season.
- Take advantage of community service and philanthropic activities.

If you have any questions about membership, please contact:

Ned Brokloff, VP – Membership
PSUCentralMD@gmail.com





THON

February 12, 2009 marked our Chapter's first fundraiser for The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon or THON. Held at Jilly's in Ellicott City, this event saw our group to raise \$555 dollars to go towards THON and The Four Diamonds Fund. This year, our Chapter was supporting THON Express (www.thonexpress.org).

On February 19, 2009, our very own VP-Social, Beth Wood Denne, and 15 other PSU alumni ran 135 miles (relay-style) from The Hershey Medical Center to THON at the Bryce Jordan Center. This run, known as THON Express, is named after the Pony Express because the runners carry precious mail from the children and families who are unable to leave Hershey to attend THON. The mail is posted on the dance floor at the BJC for all THON dancers and student participants to read. These letters remind them WHY they are dancing and WHO they are dancing for.

Our chapter's \$555 helped THON Express raise \$16,500 which was incorporated into the AMAZING 2009 THON total of \$7.4 Million!!!

All of the money raised by THON goes directly to The Four Diamonds Fund. The Four Diamonds Fund supports the pediatric cancer patients and families being treated at The Penn State Hershey

Medical Center. No family with a child that is diagnosed with and treated for cancer at Hershey is ever denied financial support from The Four Diamonds Fund (www.fourdiamondsfund.org).



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED FOR THE KIDS!!!
 Contact Beth Denne, VP – Social at PsuCentralMD@gmail.com

Black Ankle Winery

On April 18, 2009, members of our Chapter spent a wonderfully sunny afternoon at Black Ankle Vineyards in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

The vineyard is owned and operated by Ed Bryce and Sarah O-Herron. Both developed a fascination with the process of making wine, trading their corporate jobs for their new life's work. In 2008, Black Ankle opened a new building housing a Tasting Room. The structure was designed to use as many materials from the farm as possible. Eco-friendly, the building has a passive solar design and a living roof for water collection and insulation during extreme temperatures.

The afternoon began with sampling the Black Ankle Vineyard wines. Our group tasted Syrah, Passetgiata, Bedlam, Gruner Veltliner and Viognier. All were excellent. A tour of the vineyard, fermentation building and storage facility followed. Afterward, we shared a picnic and, of course, several bottles of Black Ankle wine.

For more information on Black Ankle Vineyard, visit their website at www.blackankle.com.



MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Bare Bones Grille and Brewery in Ellicott City was again the site of our now annual membership celebration. In May 2008, our chapter's kickoff event was held at the same location where owner and PSU alum, Steve McClune, and his daughter/manager, Alison, generously provide their bar area, staff, and plenty of PSU pride.

Renewing and new members enjoyed Bare Bone's award-winning food and hand-crafted brews, Creamery ice cream, a raffle and a very special keynote address by former Penn State football players Scott Shirley and Damone Jones. Both of these men are founding members of Uplifting Athletes.

Uplifting Athletes was founded in 2003 by a group of PSU football teammates who turned an annual weight lifting competition into a fund-raiser when Scott Shirley's father was diagnosed with kidney cancer. Since then, the effort has evolved into a nonprofit

organization that leverages college football to change the perception of underserved rare diseases and raise them as a national priority.



Scott and Damone shared their history and experiences with Uplifting Athletes and also talked about what it was like to play PSU Football under Coach Joe Paterno.

For more information about this great organization visit their website: www.upliftingathletes.org.



Special Thanks To Our Host!
<http://www.barebonesgrill.com/>



Members of the PSU Central Maryland Board





HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Sunday May 17th, another group of Central Maryland chapter members volunteered to help with the Howard County Special Olympics Softball Tournament at Kiwanis-Wallas Park in Ellicott City. Every previous Maryland softball tournament this year had been cancelled due to rain, so the Howard County folks were all crossing their fingers for this one to at least be the only one before that State's competition. Then when Saturday night was filled with showers, we were all in a panic. But by 9AM on Sunday, the skies cleared, the fields drained quickly, and the Howard County Parks and Recreation maintenance crew had the fields in tip-top shape.

Our volunteers ran the score boards, kept the score books, and provided field marshal support. The field marshals were responsible for re-grading the infields between inning and providing miscellaneous support on each field – that include securing medical help and an ambulance on at least one field when a hard hit line drive almost amputated the pitcher just below the knee-cap.

Teams from several local counties as well as teams from the lower Eastern shore and Allegheny county participated in a total of 18 games – with winners being crowned in four divisions as well as individual skill competitions. If you think these athletes don't take this seriously or are not skilled – several of the games featured outstanding defensive efforts in the field and more than enough home runs (including a few grand slams) to make the Orioles jealous!

As with the Bocce competition, the event was a very rewarding experience for all the volunteers – we were high-five'd by players as much as their teammates were. And we got a free lunch courtesy of Outback Steakhouse. Bob Baker, president of the Howard County Special Olympics, again extended a special thanks to the Penn State volunteers. We were Ned B., John M, Jo A., Ali G., Justine M; and Tom, Rhonda, Hunter, and Noah C. To top it all off – unbeknownst to us beforehand, the umpire on field 12 (John D.) was both a Penn Stater and member of our Central Maryland chapter! Thanks to everyone for volunteering for both Howard County Special Olympics events – we hope to repeat this community service project again in the near future!



Get Linked In! Join the Penn State Central Maryland Chapter Group too! If you haven't joined or heard about LinkedIn, the social networking website for the business community, read on. If you already have a LinkedIn profile, come "link up" to our PSU Central Maryland chapter group to expand your career network of colleagues and friends. Search groups for "Penn State Central Maryland."

What is LinkedIn?

LinkedIn is a free online network of more than 30 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries. When you join, you create a profile that summarizes your professional accomplishments. Your profile helps you find and be found by former colleagues, clients, and partners. You can add more connections by inviting trusted contacts to join LinkedIn and connect to you. Your network consists of your connections, your connections' connections, and the people they know, linking you to thousands of qualified professionals.

With LinkedIn you can find potential clients, service providers, subject experts, and partners who come recommended. By adding

connections, you increase the likelihood that people will see your profile first when they're searching for someone to hire or do business with.

You can also be found for business opportunities. You should fill out your profile like it's an executive bio, so include past companies, education, affiliations, and activities. With a few clicks of the mouse you could search for "Electrical Engineers affiliated with Penn State, living in the DC Metro area" for example. Review the profile results that appear and without a doubt, you'll have plenty of Penn Staters in our area to pick from!

Leverage the power of LinkedIn to get introduced to other professionals through the people you know. This "domino effect" continues and in no time you have hundreds of contacts. So what, you might ask?

Here's how a typical scenario might work.

I first build my free account on LinkedIn and add as much or as little personal information as I want. I can treat my LinkedIn profile like a resume and spell out specific skills and experience I have, or I can keep it very generic to start out with. Next, I search for work colleagues and friends to add to my contact list. Let's

say, I started off by adding 30 people to my list and all 30 accepted my "invitation to connect." I have 30 contacts...but it doesn't stop there. I also have access to their contact lists as well. 30 people could easily equate to 3000 contacts depending on how "connected" everyone in my list is. As I continue to add friends and colleagues from past jobs, organizations I belong to, (e.g., Penn State) over time, my network grows.

So what? Well, the beauty of this comes down to finding new positions, or for some who aren't looking for the next position...one day when you least expect it, someone reads your profile and then contacts you to discuss a great opportunity that might be right up your alley!

Finally, besides adding contacts, you can join organizations that suit your professional goals, hobbies, interest groups, or alumni organizations. Many of these groups have active discussion boards that you can participate in.



Next steps for you? Link up to our new LinkedIn group to connect with PSU Alumni right here in Central Maryland!

www.linkedin.com

Group: *Penn State Central Maryland Alumni Chapter*

Thanks to everyone who's Linked Up with our chapter so far!





Freshmen Send Off

The chapter is pleased to sponsor the second annual freshmen send-off where we support the incoming freshman from the Central Maryland area and give them our best wishes before they head off to campus! An estimated 125 students from our area will accept admission to one of Penn State's campuses beginning this fall. Unlike last year's all-chapter family picnic, this year we are focusing on a small, intimate gathering of freshmen, their families, board members, and volunteers.

We're looking for interested members who can assist with this year's event hosted by one of our gracious board members who is opening his house up to the group. Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 6, 2009 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Contact us at psucentralmd@gmail.com to help out.

Football Season Coming Soon!

The exciting 2008 Penn State Football season made for some great TV as our Chapter enjoyed its first season of football viewing parties. We thank the many locations that opened their doors to our group throughout the season. Plans are underway now to secure viewing locations best suited for our group. A football viewing schedule will be posted on the website this summer once locations are chosen. Be sure to mark your calendar now and bring family & friends along! The first game is September 5th against Akron.

ALSO...

Mark your calendars for the chapter football party - October 24th - PSU vs. Michigan (away). Last year more than 150 people turned out to watch an awesome PSU vs. OSU game! We also host a raffle for fabulous PSU prizes to raise money for the chapter. As always, donations are welcome!



Central Maryland Chapter



Monthly board meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of each month from 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Members in good standing are welcome to attend. Meeting location is Michael's Pub 8630 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD. (Village of King's Contrivance).

www.psucentralmd.org
PSUCentralMD@gmail.com

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