

The Lion's Tale

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Issue 1 – 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an amazing first year! In January, 2008, a group of 30 Penn State alumni met on a snowy night at Turf Valley Country Club with an alumni representative from the University to learn about how to start a new chapter. Now, just 12 months later, we stand as the fastest growing chapter in the country!

Through the dedication and hard work of many true blue (and white) Penn Staters, we have been able to host some wonderful events this year attended by more and more area alumni. Now that we are established, our goal is to grow and to provide new and better opportunities for alumni in our region to show their Penn State pride.

From a THON fundraiser to networking and family-oriented events, our goal is to become not just the fastest growing, but also the most active chapter in the country!

Please take a moment to look through our newsletter highlighting our first year, and to think about how you might get involved going forward. For the Glory!

Paul Danielson – President
PSUCentralMD@gmail.com

In This Issue:

- President's Message...1
- University Relations...1-2
- Membership...3
- Social Events...4
- Are you LinkedIn?...4-5
- Chapter Survey Results...6
- Advertising Rates...6
- 2009 Football Plans...7
- Toys for Tots Recap...8
- August 2009 Freshman Send-Off...8
- Chapter Contacts...8

*"Believe deep down
in your heart that
you're destined to
do great things."*

– Joe Paterno

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

A great way to get involved and make a difference for hundreds of future Penn Staters is to become an Alumni Admissions Volunteer. The Alumni Admissions Volunteer Program is a partnership between the Undergraduate Admissions Office and the Penn State Alumni Association. Alumni volunteers participate in local recruitment activities such as college fairs and admission receptions. In essence, volunteers become ambassadors for the University.

Our chapter works in conjunction with the admissions representative for the DC, MD, and VA area. A calendar of high school visits, college fairs, and information sessions are announced for the fall and spring semester. Those who are designated as an Alumni Admissions Volunteer, can choose the dates and times that work best for their schedule.

In October, several members from our chapter attended an information session for prospective Penn Staters, held at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel. Over the course of one hour, approximately 100 parents and high school students listened to the admissions representative present information about Penn State. Admissions deadlines, financial aid information, and "life on campus" were just a few of the »





University Relations –

topics covered. As Alumni Admissions Volunteers, you support information sessions such as this by telling your story! Parents and teens are captivated by the stories you share about the major you chose, the organizations you belonged to, and the network of friends you made. In addition, at the conclusion of the presentation you may field admissions questions from the audience. Not to worry! The Undergraduate Admissions office provides training and a wealth of fun facts and key admissions information you need at your fingertips.

The Process

It's very easy to become an Alumni Admissions Volunteer. If you have the enthusiasm and willingness to speak about dear 'ol State, then you're perfect! There's a few steps to follow to get involved.

(1) Contact Mark Boccia, VP University relations for the chapter by sending an email expressing your interest to PSUCentralMD@gmail.com.

(2) A password secured website link will be forwarded to you so you can register on Penn State's Alumni Admissions site. Once registered,

you will be asked to go through a 30 minute online tutorial that elaborates on the very basics of speaking with prospective students about Penn State.

(3) Once the 30 minute online training sessions is done, within a few weeks you will receive an admissions packet filled with university information to read up on the college admission test requirements, tuition and costs, degrees offered, campus housing, etc. You'll also receive a personalized Penn State name badge to wear at all admissions-related events.

(4) Finally, coordinating the time and location for you to assist is done directly with the admissions representative serving DC, MD, & VA. You can sign up for as many sessions as you'd like, there is no obligation! You are asked to attend a session first so you see how the process works and then...you're set!

An unfortunate reality is the high number of high schools in the DC, MD, & VA area and not enough Penn State Admissions staff members to visit them all. With "prime months" in the fall and spring for recruiting, Penn State must rely on admissions volunteers to help maximize coverage. If you're interested in

seeing if the local high school where you live has anyone from Penn State visit, our Admissions Representative is more than happy to verify the visitation schedule and provide you the opportunity (and all the complimentary Penn State goodies to hand out), to visit the school to represent Penn State.

FUN FACTS ABOUT PENN STATE - Courtesy of the Undergraduate Admissions Office

- 160 baccalaureate majors
- 1200 + student clubs and organizations
- 90,609 students University-wide
- 463,000 + living Penn State Alumni
- One in 115 Americans with a college degree is a Penn State graduate!
- The Alumni Association is the largest of its kind, with more than 159,000 members!

What is the mindset of the class of 2012?

The class of 2012 has grown up in an era where computers and rapid communication are the norm, and where colleges no longer trumpet the fact that residence halls are "wired" and equipped with the

latest hardware. These students will hardly recognize the availability of telephones in their rooms since they seldom utilize landlines during their adolescence. They will continue to live on their cell phones and communicate via texting.

Roommates, few of whom have ever shared a bedroom, have already checked out each other on Facebook where they have shared their thoughts with the world.

Read more fun facts about the class of 2012 by visiting the admissions section of the website www.psucentralmd.org.

*Mark Boccia, VP – University Relations
PSUCentralMD@gmail.com*



MEMBERSHIP

Join the Penn State Central Maryland Alumni Chapter serving one of the nation's fastest growing areas home to Penn State alumni.

What began as an idea by our current President, Paul Danielson, to get a group together to watch football, instantly took off as a full-fledged chapter!

With over a hundred members in our first year and a dedicated and very active board of directors, the administrators within the Alumni Association are overly impressed by our chapter's accomplishments in year one!

According to university alumni research, there are well over 2000 alumni living in the Central Maryland area! Do you know neighbor, colleague, or friend who's not a member yet? Be sure to tell them about us!

Membership runs from May 1 thru April 30th. Membership Dues are \$15 for Individual and \$25 for Joint memberships. Additional chapter donations to fund the student scholarship account are welcome!

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

- Meet new Penn State friends and family in the Central Maryland area.
- Make new Penn State professional contacts.
- Share Penn State memories with fellow alumni.
- Find opportunities to enhance your Penn State experience.
- 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.

For more information, visit our website at www.psucentralmd.org.

Membership Application >>

*Ned Brokloff, VP – Membership
PSUCentralMD@gmail.com*





MONTHLY HAPPY HOURS

A great way to unwind, relax, and meet other Penn Staters is to attend one of our many monthly happy hours. The chapter rotates happy hour locations around the Howard County area every second Thursday of the month from January thru August from 6pm - 8:30pm. Come out and join us! Visit the website for the exact location and date for each month. [Social Calendar of Events >>](#)

Bare Bones Grill & Brewery
9150-22 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City

Frisco Grille & Cantina
8865 Stanford Blvd, Columbia

Jilly's
10030 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City
(In the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center)

Michael's Pub
8630 Guilford Road, Columbia
(Village of King's Contrivance)

Nottingham's Tavern
8850 Stanford Blvd, # 1200, Columbia

Sonoma's Bar & Grille
7284 Cradlerock Way, Columbia

The Waverly Grill
(Formerly Mangia Italian Grill & Sports Cafe)
10795 Birmingham Way, Woodstock

Victoria Gastro Pub
8201 Snowden River Parkway, Columbia



For more information, contact:
Beth Denne, VP – Social
PsuCentralMD@gmail.com



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*

Enhancing our alumni connections among all of our members contact:

Mark Boccia, VP – University Relations at PsuCentralMD@gmail.com





SURVEY SAYS!

Thanks to all chapter members who completed the electronic survey in early January to determine the types of activities you'd like to see planned. With an outstanding response rate, we have a clear direction for 2009 and beyond!

We'd love for you to get involved as well. The success of the chapter relies on member participation, so if you're passionate about any of the events slated for this year, contact any of the board members to get involved.

Top events members indicated they'd love to participate in this year include:

1. Football viewing parties
2. Annual kick-off / chapter event
3. Happy hours
4. Brewery tour
5. Winery tour

Additional events under consideration for the future include, but are not limited to a Merriweather Post Pavilion concert outing, a holiday party with Toys for Tots, attending a minor league baseball game, tailgate party at a PSU football game, and a chapter golf outing. Additionally, opportunities to partner with the neighboring alumni chapters in our area are under consideration.

Have an idea for an event? Want to help plan for an upcoming event? A few hours of your time is greatly appreciated!

Contact *Beth Denne*, VP – Social at PsuCentralMD@gmail.com

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to reach out to the loyal Penn Staters in the Central Maryland area to promote your business or service?

We offer several advertising options for you to sponsor chapter events, mailings, website banner pages and hyperlinks, and more.

Contact *Denise Petrusic* – Treasurer at PsuCentralMD@gmail.com, for more information and to discuss our rates.

We are currently formalizing the plans for our 2009 advertising, so act now!



*Special Thanks
To our 2008
Restaurants &
Bars For Hosting
Our Chapter!*

*Bare Bones Grill
and Brewery*

*Frisco Grille and
Cantina*

*Sonoma's Bar
and Grill*

Jilly's

*The Waverly
Grill (formerly
Mangia's)*



Football Viewing — 2009 Plans

Our First Season of Football Viewing Was a Success!

The exciting 2008 Penn State Football season made for some great TV as our Chapter enjoyed its first season of football viewing parties. We want to thank the many locations that opened their doors to our group throughout the season. We want to especially acknowledge Jilly's for hosting the two thrilling night games versus Wisconsin and Ohio State, and Sonoma's for hosting the Rose Bowl game on New Years Day.

If the Big Ten Network decides to televise the Blue & White game on April 25, 2009, we will let you know where to go to watch with the Chapter. We are working to make arrangements for the 2009 season and will keep you all informed as it draws closer.

For more information, contact *Beth Denne, VP – Social at PsuCentralMD@gmail.com*





Our Chapter ushered in the 2008 Holiday season with a fun and fact-filled evening at Jilly's on December 2, 2008. Brian Reich and his great Jilly's staff hosted our chapter for our First Annual Toys for Tots Holiday Gathering. The United States Marine Corp sent Captain Sasha Kuhlow to collect our overflowing box of toys and we were all thrilled to learn that Cpt. Kuhlow is a 2002 PSU grad!

Our very special invited guest and speaker for the gathering was Lou Prado, author of several books including "What it means to be a Nittany Lion." Mr. Prado provided historical insight into the first time Penn State and USC met in the 1923 Rose Bowl. Sadly, we now know that the outcome of the 1923 game was distant foreshadowing to the teams' meeting on January 1, 2009.

Central Maryland Chapter



Monthly board meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of each month at 9841 Broken Land Parkway, Room 111, Columbia, MD 21046, from 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Members in good standing are welcome to attend.

www.psucentralmd.org

Freshmen Send Off – August 2009



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 125-150 students from our area will accept admission to one of Penn State's campuses beginning this fall.

We're looking for interested members who can assist with this year's weeknight event (TBD - August 3rd - 7th). A small, intimate gathering of freshmen, their families, board members, and volunteers is planned. Contact us at psucentralmd@gmail.com

Board Officers

Paul Danielson, President
 Beth Denne, VP – Social
 Ned Brokloff, VP – Membership
 Mark Boccia, VP – University Relations
 Denise Petrusic, Treasurer
 Melissa Frederick, Secretary

Board Members

Carol Apple
 Sherry & Ken Hibbard
 Angie Kearney
 Michael Jozkowski
 Larry Matz
 Brian Wadsley
 Keith Wible

PSUCentralMD@gmail.com