

The Lion's Tale

The Official Newsletter of the Central Maryland Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

Winter 2018

2009, 2011-13, 2014, 2014-,2015,

2015-2016 Chapter of DISTINCTION Award

2010, 2013 MEMBERSHIP Award



Central Maryland Chapter



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Fall & Winter Sports



The Nittany Lion football team capped an exciting season with a win in the Fiesta Bowl. The chapter provided outstanding support at the viewing parties at Glory Days all season and hosted a well-attended tailgate at the PSU v Maryland game. We were represented at Homecoming with a contingent marching in the Homecoming Parade despite the wind and very cold temperature!



Also on Homecoming weekend, the PSU NCAA Wrestling champions opened their 2017-2018 season at Rec Hall as the #1 ranked team against West Point to a overflow crowd with an outstanding win.

And, the Women's Volleyball team continued its winning ways by extending its winning streak with a straight set win over Maryland. The team went on to win a share of the Big 10 Championship and a semi-final berth in the NCAA Championships.



President's Message

Dear Penn State Central Maryland Chapter Members,

As you saw on our cover this was quite a Fall for Penn State sports teams! We're looking forward to an equally exciting winter with the Wrestling team back competing for championships and the rest of the winter-sport student athletes striving for the glory of Old State!

I'm happy to share with you that this Spring our Chapter will be awarding its first scholarship! Information to apply for the Penn State Central Maryland Chapter Edward Kennedy Memorial Scholarship will be provided once the details are set. If you know of a current Penn State undergraduate student from our area let them know to keep an eye on their mailbox and inbox for an announcement!

While the doldrums of winter have set in, the Chapter has some events coming up to shake off the winter gray. The Polar Bear Plunge, benefiting Maryland Special Olympics, is right around the corner at the end of the month. The Chapter is fielding a Plunge Team and we're looking for more team members! Please visit the link later in the newsletter to donate or sign up.

On March 3 the chapter is hosting a Howard County Brewery tour! The tour stops at four breweries in Howard County with a pint included at each; transportation is provided. More information and a link to sign up are on the Chapter's website at <http://www.psucentralmd.org>. Sign up soon as spots will go quickly!

Also the Chapter is organizing a dinner outing to the Iron Bridge Winery. Details and a link to sign up are on the Chapter's website; spots will go quickly!

PSU Sports - Reasons to be Proud

Penn State Athletics is off to another superlative start in the Learfield Directors' Cup, moving up to No. 2 in the latest standings. The Nittany Lions rose to No. 2 on the strength of the Big Ten Championship women's volleyball team.

The Nittany Lions are on track to post their highest fall finish in the Learfield Directors' Cup since placing No. 2 in 2005-06. Penn State has an opportunity to earn its 13th Top 5 fall placing overall and is seeking its 11th consecutive Top 10 fall finish. The Nittany Lions have finished in the Top 10 in the final fall standings in 20 of the 24 years the Directors' Cup has existed. The final fall standings will be announced in mid-January, with Penn State in line to earn additional Learfield Directors' Cup points from its No. 9 ranked football team. Stanford leads the Directors' Cup with (468) points and is followed by Penn State (315.50), UCLA (307), Michigan (294.5), Wisconsin (279).

During the fall semester, the Penn State women's volleyball team won its 17th Big Ten Championship and the women's soccer team captured its seventh Big Ten Tournament title. The field hockey, men's and women's cross country, women's soccer and women's volleyball teams all competed in their respective NCAA Championships. Five Penn State fall teams were ranked in their respective Top 10 (final regular season ranking): women's cross country (10), field hockey (6), football (9), women's soccer (5) and women's volleyball (3).

Penn State has one of the nation's most comprehensive and successful athletic programs, featuring 800 student-athletes across 31 varsity programs (16 men's, 15 women's). Penn State student-athletes have an NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 90 percent, which ties the Nittany Lions' all-time high. Nine teams earned a 100 percent GSR, up four from the five squads in the 2015 NCAA Graduation Rates Report. The Nittany Lions rank No. 4 among all Division I schools with 200 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans all-time, including Emily Ogle (women's soccer) and Haleigh Washington (women's volleyball) during the fall semester.

THON 2018—It's Never Too Late to Contribute!!!

For The Kids, For The Families

The mission of the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon is to conquer pediatric cancer by providing outstanding emotional and financial support to the children, families, researchers, and staff of the Four Diamonds Fund. THON is a **year long** effort to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. Since 1977, THON has raised more than \$137 million for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. Please go to: THON.org to see the many ways you can contribute and make a difference!



THON 2018 will be on **February 16th-18th, 2018** at the Bryce Jordan Center where over \$10M was again raised in 2017! The Central MD Chapter will once again donate to THON 2018. Join us for our annual post-holiday get together and THON fund raiser. We will be at Buffalo Wild Wings in Columbia Crossing January 22 from 6 to 8PM. We will be collecting donations (checks/cash) to THON.



Also consider participating in the THON Alumni Challenge where THON is pitting state against state to see which state (or technically Commonwealth) can raise the more donations for THON. More information is available at <https://thon.donordrive.com>. Information about the Alumni Challenge can be found at <https://thon.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donate.event&eventID=563>

Chapter Activities



In December the Chapter participated in our 10th Annual Toys for Tots at the Corner Stable in Columbia, MD. Members brought new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve campaign! A member of the U.S. Marine Corps attended to collect all donated toys.



Polar Bear Plunge

Support Board member Grant Stephens of the Central MD Chapter of the PSU Alumni Association and others as they participate in the Plunge, on January 27, 2018 in support of MD Special Olympics!

1) JOIN our team! To donate to our Penn State team, please visit our custom Special Olympics page at http://somid.convio.net/site/TR/Plunge/PolarBearPlunge?team_id=2813&pg=team&fr_id=1240. Please contact the team captain Grant Stephens at gks5004@gmail.com to be added to the email chain or check out our Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1537957392888142/>.

Central Maryland Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

How to Contact the Chapter

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Monthly BOARD MEETING
Every First Tuesday of the Month
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
For this month's location E-Mail us at psucentralmd@gmail.com



Great News for All Chapter Members!

We are now setup on AmazonSmile. If anyone starts at <https://smile.amazon.com/> and selects the Penn State Alumni Association located in Sykesville MD, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to our chapter.

Membership
Yearly Membership:
May, 2018
to May, 2019
Individual \$15
Joint \$25
Optional chapter scholarship donation
Download membership form at: <http://www.psucentralmd.org/index.php/membership-application-form>

Scholarship
\$50,000 Goal

\$26,598.91 *
***As of Jan. 2018**