

Philadelphia Nittany News

August 2009 • Volume 7, Issue 1

In this issue ...



Outgoing Presidents Message



Dear Penn Staters

What an honor and privilege it has been serving as your President for the past 6 years. I remember the final weeks as a senior at Penn State; my inability to grasp the fact that I would be an alum. I was in denial; I was disgusted at the thought, the mere word: Alumni. **BOY WAS I WRONG! WE ROCK!** *Continued on Page 3*



Incoming President's Message



Fellow Penn Staters, what a great year it has been to be in Philadelphia! With the Phillies winning the World Series, and Flyers and Eagles making great playoff runs, it is an exciting time to be in the Delaware Valley. A mild July has let us all get out and enjoy what Philadelphia has to offer: culture, activities, and friendship through all of it. Let me introduce myself... I'm Jason Mattia and I was recently elected President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association. While at PSU I had the opportunity to experience many different parts of life. I was able to serve as a Lion Ambassador, THON captain, and even worked with athletics in my time at University Park. All have given me great memories. I would like to open up Philadelphia in the same way and give everyone the chance to form great memories together here. *Continued on Page 2*



4th Annual Liberty Ball , Complete Success!



As in years past, the goal of the Liberty Ball is to raise funds to support THON, Four Diamonds Fund and childhood cancer, in general. This year, in addition to The Vicidomini's, our Four Diamonds Fund Family, our Philadelphia Chapter added an additional partner, ConKerr Cancer, A Case for Smiles. *Continued on Page 2*



Chapter Awards Two Scholarships



Congratulations to Ms Adrianna Matthews and Ms. Jamilah Thompson, two students who were chosen to receive one thousand dollar scholarship each from the Penn State Alumni Association Philadelphia Chapter. *Continued on Page 3*



'Staters pack up 18,000lbs of Food



It may have been a little rough pulling yourself out of bed on a cold morning in November, but it didn't take long to warm up with friends and the holiday spirit. Members of the Philadelphia Chapter teamed up with students from Temple and other goodwill volunteers to help Philabundance in their goal to provide food to those families in need in Philadelphia and surrounding areas. *Continued on Page 3*



Liberty Ball 2009: A Knight for the Kids

Continued from Page 1...

ConKerr Cancer is a local community organization founded by Cindy Kerr, in memory of her son, Ryan who passed away from a rare childhood cancer in February 2008.

The 2009 Liberty Ball, A Knight for the Kids was yet another successful event where over \$15,841.00 was raised on Saturday, February 7, 2009 in Philadelphia at The Franklin. The event consisted of a Cocktail Hour, Silent Auction, Dinner and Dancing with entertainment provided by Second Vision. Contributions from our presenting sponsors such as Mad River Bar & Grille, Gilbane Company and United Healthcare helped kick-start the fundraising for this year's event. Additional donations from local businesses, schools, alumni and supporters graciously helped our cause in finding a cure for childhood cancer.

We offer our dearest thanks to both The Vicidomini Family and the Kerr Family as their stories have been the inspiration for this year's event. We would also like to thank you, our Penn State and Philadelphia communities alike, for without your support this night would not be possible.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!!

Mad River Bar and Grille
Gilbane Company
United Health Care

Thank You to Our Donors!!

Conlin's Digital Print & Copy Center
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia
Hancock Elementary
Jenkintown Elementary
Media Alternatives
Elizabeth Moulton
James and Ellen Patton
The Penn State Alumni Association-
Northern New Jersey Chapter
PENNYPACK FLOWERS, INC.
Patti Schwarz



David Seitz
Sean and Maria Sommer
Sweet Jazmine Bakery

Special Thanks ...

Cindy & Gavin Kerr (and Family)
ConKerr Cancer
Four Diamonds Fund
The Franklin
Frog Commissary
Hershey Medical Center
The Liberty Ball Committee Members
Penn State Athletics
The Penn State Alumni Association,
Philadelphia Chapter Board Members
The Pennsylvania State University
Second Vision Entertainment
Carla & Dennis Vicidomini (and Family)

Incoming Presidents Message

Cont. from pg. 1...

Many thanks should go to the outgoing board members to all of the wonderful programs we been able to experience over the years. The new board hopes to continue that tradition into the future. As a chapter we wish to foster the spirit of Penn State while taking advantage of all the opportunities and experiences that Philadelphia has to offer! The Penn State network in Philadelphia is large and strong, and we want to make it even easier for you to get in touch with your alma mater and strengthen the bonds you formed with the people and the University. This year we'll be featuring our always popular Tail-Greats at Mad River in Olde City and Manayunk, offering special behind-the-scenes tours of the Philadelphia athletic venues with networking events, volunteering in a variety of ways, such as our volunteer day at Philabundance, and hosting our 5th Annual Liberty Ball (www.libertyball.org). I encourage you to get involved with the Chapter and help plan these great events. Often the experiences you take away far outweigh the effort you give. So please, join our listserv, check out our website for upcoming events, or come to one of our meetings. We would love to see you out there.

We Are...

For the Glory,
Jason Mattia '03, '05g
President '09-'11

Outgoing President's Message

Continued from Pg 1...

I have so many fond memories from school, but I have made so many more as an **active** alum involved in this Chapter. I have truly enjoyed joining in with 200+ loyal fans at Mad River to watch Nittany Lion football games and bowl parties, the **spirit and energy are indescribable**. I am extremely **proud** of our **charitable efforts** through the creation of the Liberty Ball, which has raised over \$35k for pediatric cancer; volunteer work at Philabundance; benefits for The Adam Taliaferro Foundation; and Adopt-A-School Project with the First Philadelphia Charter School.

My fondest memories however are the friends I have made throughout these events. **The members of this Chapter are PHENOMENAL!** All that you see and read in this newsletter are products of **VOLUNTEER** alumni. The time, commitment, effort and energy that I have seen put forth by countless volunteers have helped to make my Presidency successful and for that I would like to give my sincere thanks to them. I would also like to ask for your continued support to the new board to keep our tremendous energy and spirit going.

Get Your Roar On!
Jamie D. Nelson '02 Psy.
Past-President '03—'09

'Staters pack up 18,000lbs of Food

by Jason Mattia

Cont. from Pg 1 ...

Our host, Maria, provided the instructions for packing and labeling the food, and after that, away we went. Nick from Philabundance was our DJ and took requests as music of the holidays filled the aisles of the warehouse. The women took their place in front of the giant food bins separated into green veggies, non-green vegetables, and soups and began packing the 27 pound boxes. The men were charged with carrying these boxes to the packing area for final weigh in and shipping. As we hit our stride, the volunteers began looking like part of a choreographed dance with smiles and music, and as our day came to an end we had packed over 18,000 pounds of food.



Knowing that we were able to help make a difference with such a simple, yet important, task with old and new friends kicked off the holiday season with great expectations. We hope you can join us this year when we visit Philabundance. I can guarantee the experience will be worth it.

Chapter Awards Two Scholarships

by Vivian Corlew

Cont. from Pg 1 ...

Ms Matthews attended Martin Luther King High School in Philadelphia, where she had a class rank of 6 out of 249 students. She has a creative personality and enjoys writing, singing, and acting. During high school, she attended classes at the Walnut Street Theater. Ms Matthews major is Theater and has aspirations of working in the Entertainment field. She is hard working and shows a level of commitment to herself and to people around her. She is personable and is driven to succeed. She currently attends Penn State Schuylkill.

Ms Jamilah Thompson is a graduate of Archbishop Prendergast High School in Philadelphia. Her major is Business Administration as she has shown an aptitude in this field. She has volunteered for Little Brothers of the Elderly, Philadelphia Housing Authority, and Walk against Hunger and Diabetes. She has received praise for her civic duties in her community. Ms Thompson is a positive role model for her friends, family, and is a genuine asset to her community. She currently attends Penn State University Park.



Rose Bowl Recap

by Jamie Nelson

Continued from Pg 1 ...

Attendees were greeted by a sea of blue and white decorations in addition to arrangements of red roses, a buffet complete with grilled stickies and open bar. Penn State fans weren't alone in the celebration, Trojan fans were invited to join in on the fun at the Old City location and made an impressive showing for being over 2,700 miles away from their alma mater.

Though the outcome wasn't favorable to our beloved Lions (USC 38 – PSU 28) all Nittany Lion fans that were present stayed in good spirits and showcased their Penn State spirit through chants, cheers and sing-a-longs to the Blue Band music blared during commercial breaks. Blue and white pride truly showed as numerous Trojan fans looked on in disbelief that though the title had been taken from us, our fans still celebrated our Nittany Lions.

Big 10 Toys for Tots Event

By Heather Gabriel

On December 4, 2008, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association hosted the Big Ten Toys for Tots Holiday Party & Happy Hour. Alumni from all the Big Ten schools in the Philadelphia region were invited out to Lucy's Hat Shop on Market Street in Old City for a night of celebration. Each invitee was asked to bring a toy to donate to the Toys for Tots toy drive in Philadelphia or to make a cash donation of \$10.

Around fifty of the area's Big Ten alumni came out to support the great cause and mingle with other alum. Appetizers were donated by Lucy's Hat Shop for all to enjoy, drink specials ran the entire length of the event and gift certificates were raffled off to those in attendance. Local Marines were on hand to collect the toys. They shared that the toys and monetary donations would go to local needy families to help brighten up their holiday season.

By the end of the night, three bins of toys were filled. The Marines were so impressed with the toys that were collected that they said they cannot wait to partner with us again next year. Thank you to all who came out for this great cause!

We are ... Looking for YOU!!!

Board of Directors & Committee Members



Board of Directors:

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Scholarship & Student Outreach
- Professional Development
- 2010 Liberty Ball Chairs

Committee Volunteers:

- Activities
- Communications
- Community Service
- Membership
- Professional Development
- Scholarship & Student Outreach
- Liberty Ball Volunteers

Our Philadelphia Chapter is seeking motivated, organized and Penn State Proud Alumni volunteers to help grow the Chapter! If you bleed blue & white, find yourself the lead in social planning situations, and are looking to foster friendships and maintain the feel of the Penn State community in the Philadelphia area we have the spot for you! Are you a recent grad?? Here's your chance to stay connected to PSU and help us make a difference in the Philadelphia community!! Not so recent grad? Here's your chance to reconnect with old pals and make new Penn State friends.

Please contact Chapter President, Jason Mattia; president@psuphila.org for more information to be a general volunteer.

The Chapter's mission; To unite and maintain a network of Penn State alumni,



Upcoming Events

Philabundance Volunteer Day by Jason Mattia



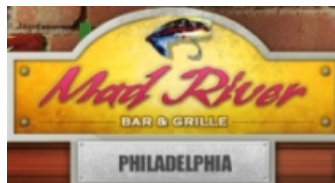
Come join the Philadelphia Chapter on Saturday, December 5th from 12:30—3:30 pm at Philabundance on 302 West

Berks Street in Philadelphia. We join alumni from other universities, current students, and local volunteers to help with an important organization for the area's needy. Philabundance is the region's largest hunger relief organization. In 2008, Philabundance distributed 17 million pounds of food to the Delaware Valley. Their member agencies include food cupboards, shelter or residential programs, social service agencies, emergency kitchens, and neighborhood distribution programs who reach people in need.

Go to <http://www.psuphila.org> for more information on volunteering with the Philadelphia Chapter on December 5th!

For more information, you can visit www.philabundance.org

Mad River Happy Hours by Heather Gabriel



On August 27, about 60 Penn Staters came out to Mad River in Manayunk for our "End of Summer Happy Hour". The Philadelphia Chapter partnered with members of the LAAIG living in the Philadelphia area.

Guests enjoyed appetizers purchased by the chapter as well as drink specials and endless conversation. We had the perfect weather to enjoy the new back deck at Mad River Manayunk.

Didn't make it to the happy hour? Be sure to check out our website for our next event!

If you are interested in planning or partnering with the Philadelphia Chapter for your next event, you can contact Jason Mattia at president@psuphila.org

Liberty Ball 2010: A Knight for the Kids by Jason Mattia

Please join us for our 5th Annual Liberty Ball: A Knight for the Kids. The Liberty Ball promises to be an evening of elegance and enchantment complete with delicious three-course dinners, cocktail hour, phenomenal entertainment, and Penn State fun!



This year our event will take place at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts on February 6th, 2010. All proceeds from tickets sales, silent auction, and donations large and small will be contributed to the Four Diamonds Foundation at the Hershey Medical center.

If you would like to volunteer for planning the event, go to www.psuphila.org, search for our facebook group online, or contact Maribeth Wicoff at membership@psuphila.org

If you would like to become a sponsor or donate a silent auction item, please contact Heather Gabriel at chair@libertyball.org.

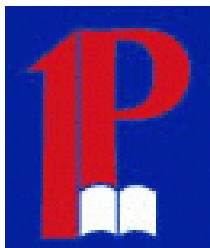
Please join us on February 6, 2010, for what promises to be a great evening! Visit www.libertyball.org for more information. Also, check out our special ticket pricing until December 31st, 2009.

Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts
128 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA
February 6th, 2010

Upcoming Events

First Philadelphia Charter School Heading to PSU

by Darryl Bundridge



Help Philadelphia Elementary School Students Prepare to become Nittany Lions

After a very successful award-winning partnership between the Philadelphia Chapter and First Philadelphia Charter School for Literacy, the two organizations have decided to join forces once again to teach elementary school students the importance of college and to show them what the world looks like first-hand. We need your help to make sure these students have a great Penn State experience.

First Philadelphia Charter School for Literacy (FPCS), a K-8 school located in the Tacony section of the city, focuses on developing lifelong learners by building students' love and ability to read. As a No Excuses University partner, the school promotes the idea that all students depart the school academically prepared to attend college. FPCS Teacher and Penn State alumnus, Ira Sommers, reached out to the Chapter during the 2007-2008 school-year for support in educating his students about the Penn State college experience. With Philadelphia Chapter support, Sommers' third graders read books and newspapers about Penn State, listened to the Penn State Blue Band and other music groups, and enjoyed Creamery ice cream and grilled stickies. Students spent a day at the Abington campus and participated in a literature class led by a professor who wrote a children's book. They also toured campus, visited the bookstore and ate in the student dining hall.

Through generous donations from alumni and University support, Mr. Sommers' class visited the University Park campus in March 2008. Their overnight trip at the Penn Stater Hotel allowed them to take pictures at the Nittany Lion Shrine, dine at the Corner Room, dining halls, and Alumni Center; and have terrific learning experiences through the Colleges of Science, Engineering, Business, WPSX Television, and the Robeson Cultural Center. The students are true Penn Staters now and can't wait to apply.

Now you have the opportunity to help another class of students grow to know and love Penn State. What can you do to help? Visit the class to talk to the students about Penn State, your career, and how Penn State helped you prepare for your career or why you love Penn State so much. Or donate your Penn Stater magazines or other reading material, music, dvds, and items that will help the students experience Penn State. Lastly, you can donate funds to help these students make the overnight trip to the University Park campus. From transportation, to hotels and meals, there are plenty of ways to support the effort.

For more information, please contact Darryl Bundridge at dbstate93@aol.com.

WE ARE... Waiting for you to Get Involved!

Start by joining The Chapter! We offer great networking, social, and community service opportunities. And, of course, our members get discounts to our events! The Chapter upholds annual dues for its membership that help to offset costs for events and service activities. They also allow us to provide annual members with event information via newsletters, mailings, and special email updates.



You had no idea.

You just weren't prepared to get that kind of reaction. Here you are, no one in the middle of no where (or that's what it seems) trying to land your first job, armed with your resume, your degree, and a heady mix of self-confidence and self-doubt. Someone sees you're from Penn State and that's when it starts. Oh, you need to talk with so-and-so, the human resource rep says. She's a big Penn Stater, you're told. And you do. Wow! So that's how it happens. You had no idea. And that's when you realize. You really should become a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association.

Penn State. Forever.

Become a life member in the Penn State Alumni Association

Join the National Association as a Lifetime member today and enter the Philadelphia Chapter's code "ATL" on your application to contribute \$50 to the Chapter's operating costs.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

An online version is available at <http://www.psuphila.org/getinvolved.htm>

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:		
Date of birth:	Phone:	Mobile:
Current address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Email:		
Degree:	Class Year:	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Single Annual Membership \$15.00	
Family Annual Membership \$20.00	
Recent Grads (within 2 years) \$5.00	Class Year:
Senior Citizen's discount (65 years or older) \$5.00 discount off membership type	

SUBMITTAL PROCESS

Once you have completed this form, please detach and send with membership dues, check, or money order payable to:

The Penn State Alumni Association – Philadelphia Chapter
PO Box 21233
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Or submit our electronic form available at website above to our Membership Committee Chair at membership@psuphila.org with membership dues through our website using PayPal, or sent via US Mail to the PO Box listed above.

Make Your Chapter Work for YOU!



As part of the largest Alumni Association in the world, and in the most concentrated area of Penn State Alumni in the county (the Philadelphia area), you have the ability to make a difference and experience opportunities like never before.

Take some time and tell the Philadelphia Chapter what events you would like us to focus on in the coming year. Below is a list of activities that we can offer you with some really great deals! Tell us where to focus our efforts and we'll make it happen for you.

- Philadelphia Sporting Events (Flyers, Sixers, Wings, Phillies)
- Professional Development Events (Resume Workshops, Financial Planning)
- Lecture Series (featuring talks with accomplished professors and their work)
- Wine tasting events, Culinary events
- Happy Hours, Penn State game watches (Football, Basketball, et. al.)
- Any many more listed in the survey

**Go to <http://www.psuphila.org/survey.htm> to take our Online Survey
Win a chance for Free Gift Certificates for filling out our survey!**

Philadelphia Chapter—PSAA
P.O. Box 21233
Philadelphia, PA 19114

