

WE ARE...

Myrtle Beach Penn State Alumni Association

Alumni News

January 2016

STATE OF THE CHAPTER MESSAGE

Jim Prisco, Chapter President

Football season is over and we are half way through the current fiscal year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). We had a very successful experience at Milardo's for our football viewing events, averaging over 50 attendees per game with several events at over 65 attendees. Even though our team had a 7-6 season with some disappointing games, our fans had fun enjoying the Penn State spirit, enthusiasm and camaraderie.

Milardo's provided everything as promised, including a private area for just the Penn State fans, 12 televisions with volume control for our games, smoke free environment, discounted food and beverage prices with outstanding/friendly service from the staff. Attendees, especially our visiting alumni, were pleasantly surprised at the location and high spirited atmosphere.

Our chapter has grown to 163 members, exceeding our goal of 125 by 2015 and 150 by 2016. We have been active with our charities by volunteering at Jason's House in August; raising funds for THON; and partnering with the local U.S. Marine Corp Reserve and Milardo's for TOYS for TOTS campaign, which was very successful. We also continue to provide donations to Backpack Buddies, Jason's House and Hope House!

The communications committee has made some changes to our website; but is in the process of completing our new and improved site by March 2016, which promises to be more informative and impressive.

One new addition will be a 2016 Calendar of Events, which will provide a snapshot look at our planned events for the year; so that members can schedule accordingly. Our website will provide the details for these events, followed by a summary with photos after the event.

As an example of the events we have planned for this year:

FEBRUARY 24 to 27 – 13th Annual Palmetto Regional Robotics Competition; where our chapter will represent Penn State as an exhibitor, providing information to the over 2,000 high school students participating in the competition, about the excellent degree programs offered at PSU.

MARCH 5 – Penn State will play baseball at UNC – Wilmington on Saturday (3/5/16) at 2:00 PM. Our chapter is planning to attend the game, followed by a BBQ with the team to meet, greet and eat with coaches and players.

APRIL 8 – Fifth annual chapter dinner at Pine Lakes Country Club with guest speaker Jay Paterno. Invitations have been sent to current chapter members to purchase tickets to the event until January 15th before we open up sales to the public.

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JUNE 12 – Our annual summer picnic is scheduled for 4:00 PM at the Myrtle Beach State Park.

AUGUST – Chapter members will volunteer at Jason's House for several weekends during the month, to help process the selected families (who have a child diagnosed with terminal cancer) to enjoy a free vacation in Myrtle Beach for the upcoming week.

AUGUST 22 – We are discussing the possibility of conducting our First Annual Chapter Fund Raiser Golf Outing at Legends Moorland Course.

SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER – Penn State football games begin with a more experienced team ready to improve their performance and our chapter will start the viewing events. We will also continue our chapter charity fund raising events (THON, TOYS for TOTS, and Military Appreciation Day).

In our previous Newsletter, we reported on the possibility of having Penn State play baseball at the Pelicans stadium in Myrtle Beach. Well, it is my great pleasure to advise you that starting in the spring of 2017; Penn State will open their baseball season at the Pelicans stadium and every year thereafter...sometimes dreams do come true!

We, **your** board, are very excited to present the activities we have planned; but remember, this is **your** chapter and we want **your** involvement through participation, by attending planned events and joining a chapter committee to make us stronger. Many of you have indicated an interest in getting more involved with the chapter and we will be contacting you in the very near future to make that happen.

Our chapter has been recognized by the Penn State Alumni Association as a Group of Distinction at the **Lion Level** of excellence for 2015. In the letter we received from the Penn State Alumni Association it stated, "In reaching this level of excellence, your efforts have placed the Myrtle Beach Chapter in the upper tier of our affiliate groups." Those efforts are based on our chapter activities and events.

Thank you for your continued participation in our chapter to achieve our current level of excellence, and striving to reach the **Laurel Level** of excellence for 2016, which is the second highest level; followed by the highest level (**Elm Level**). Our aforementioned chapter activities/events will allow us to reach the next level of excellence for 2016.

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A Message from Franco Harris

"Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth." –Buddha

In the first year or so after the Sandusky scandal broke, we continuously faced setback after setback in our quest for the Truth and during that time the media had their own agenda and created a false narrative about Penn State and Joe Paterno that still exists today. This false narrative created fear and people distanced themselves from Joe and Penn State.

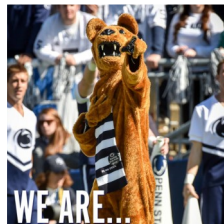
However, this past Saturday night Joe Paterno was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. I believe this is the first honor bestowed upon Joe since the scandal. Jay Paterno accepted this honor on behalf of his father and the Paterno family. He gave an amazing speech that I can only describe as a "moment of Truth" for the world to hear.

We are not there yet, but this honor shows that we are moving forward and that our path to the Truth is having an impact. "Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." Joe told us to find the Truth. I know it's been tough and we have faced many difficult challenges, but we won't give up, we will keep seeking the Truth. We want people to know that this has never been about football. This is beyond football. This is about who WE ARE. It's what we do that defines us.

Penn State is our second home. Joe Paterno is our family.

WE ARE in this together

Before the Nittany Lion, there was Old Coaly



UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Before the Nittany Lion mascot, there was Old Coaly. a black mule. Old Coaly came to Penn State from Kentucky in 1857 with his owner, Piersol Lytle, whose son Andy was among 200 workmen engaged in constructing Old Main. Along with three other mules and two horses, Coaly hauled limestone blocks to the construction site from a quarry located on what is a part of the Old Main lawn, near the intersection of College Avenue and Pugh Street. A plaque now marks the quarry's location. The five-story Old Main was completed in 1863, and Penn State then purchased Coaly for \$190 -- a high price for that era, reflecting his reliability and great capacity for work. He spent the next 30 years handling many landscaping and farm chores on campus and the surrounding farms. Although Penn State students never officially adopted Coaly as a mascot, they held him in high esteem. Old Coaly's skeleton has had numerous resting places, including a wildlife museum in the original Old Main, the basement of Watts Hall, the attic of the old Penn State veterinary hospital, the Agricultural Administration Building and the Agricultural Arena. Since 2004 he has made his home in the HUB-Robeson Center, where visitors can see him in a display on the first floor near the entrance to Freeman.

Sue Paterno
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

November 5, 2015

Dear Alumnus,

November 9 was the fourth anniversary of Joe's firing by the Board of Trustees and their wholesale indictment of the football program and the Penn State culture. Joe and I knew they had acted rashly, but we were hopeful that, with the benefit of time, they would correct their mistakes and set the record straight.

While much progress has been made in the last four years, the Administration, the NCAA and Louis Freeh have yet to acknowledge fully the extent of their errors. Worse yet, they are still waging an all-out campaign to keep the facts from ever seeing the light of day.

I write to you now to let you know that we have not given up on setting the record straight – and we never will. Four years of secrecy are enough. The victims, their families, each of you and everyone who cares about Penn State deserve the truth.

The sad history of this case is that the Board of Trustees took a terrible tragedy and made it worse. Their complete reliance on the deeply flawed Freeh report and their total capitulation to the NCAA were terrible mistakes that needlessly and recklessly tarnished the reputation of this great university.

Our only options are to give in and accept the allegation that Penn State was consumed with a corrupt culture, or fight for the truth. You and I know what Joe would have expected us to do. Penn State's culture is a treasure. It is worth fighting for. And the truth is not to be feared, but embraced.

Because these issues are currently being litigated, I am not able to comment on specific aspects of the case. What I can tell you is we respect the courts, and we welcome a chance to have the facts finally reviewed in a setting that honors transparency and due process.

Finally, I want you to know how proud I am of each of you. What you do with your lives is the ultimate testament to the Penn State culture. My life continues to be consumed with children and grandchildren and raising money for the causes Joe and I cared so much about. I also continue to pray for the victims and hope that the lessons of the Sandusky case will open eyes throughout our society.

I cherish my memories with all of you. I love Penn State more every day, which is why I will see this case to its proper resolution. I wish you and your families the best for the holidays.

With love,



*...we have not
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Clifford Named 11th Chief Executive of the Penn State Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Paul J. Clifford has been named chief executive officer of the Penn State Alumni Association and associate vice president for alumni relations of the University. He is the alumni association's 11th chief executive in its 145-year history.

A native of Conyngham, Pennsylvania, Clifford comes to Penn State from the University of Oregon, where he has served as associate vice president of advancement and executive director of the University of Oregon Alumni Association.

"Paul Clifford is recognized as one of the most innovative, energetic and knowledgeable alumni advancement professionals in the country today," said Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Rodney P. Kirsch, who led the national search. "He has the right skill set, personality and vision to lead the Alumni Association into its next chapter of service to alumni and alma mater.

"Penn State may well graduate more than 150,000 alumni in the next decade," Kirsch continued. "Paul's proven ability to uphold tradition while engaging current students and our young alumni with the University will be invaluable as we think to our future and all of the opportunities that await this next generation of Penn State leaders."

While at Oregon, Clifford directed all programs, events, communications and services for the University's 190,000 alumni and led a team of 40 professionals across four locations. He was responsible for increasing membership by more than 8 percent.

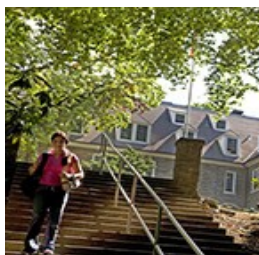
Clifford has spent his entire career in the alumni relations field and has broad national experience. A 12-time CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Award winner, Clifford has served on or chaired myriad CASE committees and is a five-time faculty member for the organization's Summer Institute for Alumni Relations.

"Paul Clifford is recognized as one of the most innovative, energetic and knowledgeable alumni advancement professionals ..."

About the Alumni Association

Established in 1870, the Penn State Alumni Association serves more than 177,000 members and 645,000 alumni worldwide. Its mission is to connect alumni to the University and to each other; provide valued services to members; and support the University's mission of teaching, research and service.





THON IS COMING! AND YOU CAN HELP...

The countdown is on to the 2016 IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (Feb. 19–21). Commonly referred to as **THON**, it is a 46 hour Dance Marathon that takes place every February with the purpose of raising money and providing emotional support to children and families in order to combat pediatric cancer.

It was started in 1973 by Penn State's Interfraternity Council, and in its first year, more than \$2,000 was raised, with 39 couples dancing for 30 hours straight. Today, it is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, by involvement and revenue^{[1][2]} with \$13,343,517.33 having been raised at the 2014 event.^[3]

The money that is raised is donated to The Four Diamonds Fund, a charity devoted to defeating pediatric cancer through research and caring for patients at the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. 74% of funds are transferred to an experimental therapeutics fund while 12% of funds are used for patient and family support.^[4] In 2011, the Four Diamonds Experimental Therapeutics Endowment was funded to a level which enabled the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital to recruit two physician scientists to the Four Diamonds research team.

*More than
15,000 students get
involved in THON
each year,
organizing it and
raising funds with
the rallying cry,
"FOR THE
KIDS!"*

...AND SO IS OUR ANNUAL DINNER

Vince Rizzo, Secretary

On Friday, April 8th, our annual dinner will be held at the Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach. Ticket sales were open to members and guests only until January 15 and then to the general public. Sales have been brisk as our guest speaker will be none other than Jay Paterno—a link to the glory days that were the lasting legacy of his father.

Jay's book has been well received by Penn Staters and the general public. As time begins to reassert Joe Paterno's rightful place in PSU lore, Jay's visit gives us an opportunity to hear from a true insider what the Paterno years were like and how Joe's legacy endures. If you haven't yet reserved your place at the table, you had better hurry. The sales have already exceeded past years and are nearly double last year's attendance. Our flyer with ticket information is available on our website, or you can email me at vjr7121@gmail.com. I will be happy to accommodate your ticket requests until the room is sold out!

