

WE ARE...



## Myrtle Beach Penn State Alumni Association

[www.psumyrtlebeach.com](http://www.psumyrtlebeach.com)



## Alumni News

January, 2017, Vol. VI, No.1

### STATE OF THE CHAPTER MESSAGE

**Jim Prisco**, Chapter President

As we enter the second half of our sixth fiscal year, it is time to reflect on the activities for the first half and look ahead to our plans for the remainder of this fiscal year.

We stated that the Penn State football team looked awesome on paper and we hoped they would perform to their highest potential. We started our football tailgate parties on September 3, 2016 at Milardo's; where Penn State fans are always welcome with a private viewing area, special attention from the servers and discounts on food/beverages.

After the first four games of the season, PSU was 2-2 with a close loss to Pitt and a royal butt kicking from Michigan; but then a miracle happened and Penn State ran the table 8-0, including beating Ohio State. Our game attendance improved each week; because everyone wants to cheer for a winner! Thank You, Penn State, for a great season!

We beat Wisconsin for the Big 10 championship; are currently ranked #5; and will play Southern California in the Rose Bowl on 1/2/2017. Thank You, Penn State, for a great season!

The Myrtle Beach Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association received the second highest level of excellence (Laurel Level) for our accomplishments during our fifth fiscal year. We submitted our annual report and we were notified of the results in November 2016.

As a member of our chapter, you should all be proud of our accomplishments and help us continue to achieve the recognition of remaining in the upper tier levels of the PSAA affiliate groups. You can do this by getting involved with our committees; participating in our events; and/or donating to our chapter. Always remember and never forget; this is your chapter!

The Social Committee organized a holiday gathering on December 6<sup>th</sup> at TBonz which was attended by about 45 people who had a great time; and continue to schedule more events. They met with Pine Lakes Country Club and finalized the menu and other arrangements for greeting our guest speaker, Blair Thomas, for our Annual Dinner on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6PM; and finalizing plans for our Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at our new location (The International Club in Murrells Inlet) which will eliminate the problem of hot weather we usually experience!

Our golf committee has finalized plans for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser Golf Outing on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at Legends Moorland Course; but now it is time for our membership to help us reach our goal of 144 golfers and to obtain more sponsors to benefit our charities.

As members of our chapter, we ask you to follow our planned activities posted on our great website; read the Thursday blasts written by our chapter secretary and communication officer (Vince Rizzo); and in our quarterly newsletter. Most importantly, we need you to get involved and attend as many events as you can, because this group knows how to have fun, fun, fun! Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and have a prosperous and healthy New Year!

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**MYRTLE BEACH CHAPTER  
PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
*ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION*  
(2016-2017)**

**Dear Fellow Penn State Alumni,**

**Hello! As the President of the Myrtle Beach Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association I want to welcome you. As of December, 2016, our chapter reached 196 members; and we are inviting you to either renew your membership or join our chapter.**

**Our chapter will continue to view all Penn State football games at Milardo's Pizzeria and Sports Pub at 3264 US-17 Business, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576 (behind the Inlet Square Mall, adjacent to Applebee's) where we have a separate viewing area for our group, averaging 50 - 60 attendees; large screen TV's with good visibility; volume set on the PSU game so viewers can hear the game; no smoking in viewing area; and great food at discounted price. We enjoy a tailgating atmosphere with Penn State enthusiasm that is loud and exciting...please come enjoy the excitement!**

**On behalf of our chapter, we want to encourage new members to join and current members to renew their membership for fiscal year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). We also want to thank the active members during fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016); because we appreciate your support and participation. Thanks to your generous contributions to our chapter and your participation in our 50-50 raffles; we were able to provide support to our community and university. Our goal is to top the 200 mark of active members before fiscal year end (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) and we need your continued support. Our dues are \$15 for a member and \$25 for a couple. Simply fill out the short form below.**

**WE ARE...PENN STATE PROUD!!**

**Jim Prisco, President**

**Detach this portion and return with payment**

**Your (Name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse/Partner (Name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my check for: Me Only \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**For My Spouse/Partner and Me \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **included to go towards the Club's charitable causes. Anything helps.**

**Make your check payable to Myrtle Beach Penn State Alumni Association and send to: Vicki Acri, 705**

**Hummingbird Drive, Murrells Inlet SC, 29576**



## Who is Blair Thomas?

*The following is from the Executive Summary Blair Thomas submitted to us and reflects his life's work to date.*

Blair Thomas is a graduate Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Parks. He is an entrepreneur, media talent and business consultant. After graduating Blair spent 6 years in the National Football League where he was drafted in the first round by the New York Jets. Blair is the co-founder of eMMortal Enterprises LLC which distributes eMMortal Magnesium Therapy. Mr. Thomas is also the co-founder of B/Q consulting LLC which launched NittanySports Huddle. NittanySports Huddle is the flagship marketing portal for B/Q Consulting LLC. In 2011, Blair was inducted in the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. Blair has been a football instructor for the past 18 years. He coached at Temple University for 8 years before branching off into the private camps sector. As a result, he created the Blair Thomas Football Academy in 2011.

**Blair Thomas will speak at our Annual Dinner on March 31, 2017. Make your reservation now. Use the form below.**

### 2017 Annual Chapter Dinner Invitation Featuring Blair Thomas

Penn State alumni, family, guests and all Grand Strand Area interested parties are cordially invited to attend the Annual Dinner of the Myrtle Beach Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association. Blair Thomas, Heisman runner-up (1989) and #2 draftee (NFL, NY Jets), will be the featured speaker for this special event on Friday March 31, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at Pine Lakes Country Club, 5603 Granddaddy Drive, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577.

Tickets are \$50 for members and \$65 for guests. Reservations are required for this event that is sure to be a sellout. Please complete and mail the form below with your check made payable to the Myrtle Beach Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association.

**Detach here and return the form below with your payment for tickets**

Yes, I/we will attend the Annual Dinner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

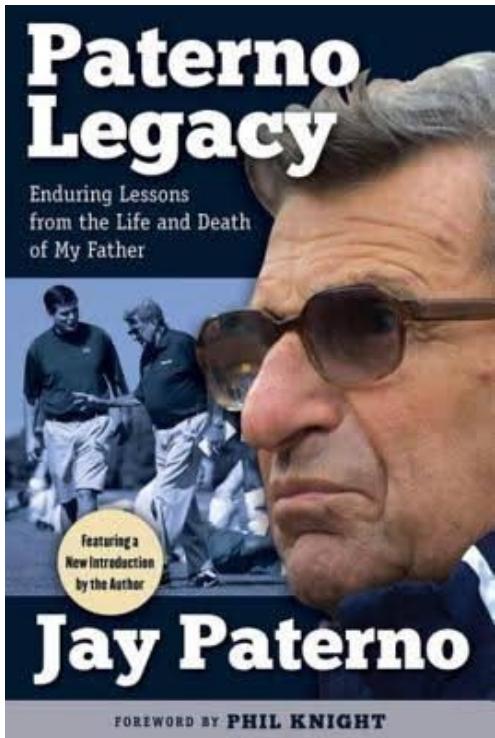
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets.

Mail with check to: Myrtle Beach Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association, 6482 Somersby Dr., Murrells Inlet, SC 29576-8936

## “Paterno Legacy” May Become a Movie



When Jay Paterno spoke last year at our annual dinner, his main topic was the core of his best selling book about his Dad and “growing up Paterno.” Those who have read the book will agree that Jay’s tribute was a fascinating look into Joe Paterno, a father, coach, and national icon. Jay’s book was honest and revealing as it focused on the good times and the bad. Now comes word that the book has been optioned to a film producer who has purchased the rights to make it into a film. While much has been written and filmed of late about the rise and fall of the Penn State Football during the time of Paterno, nothing as yet has shown the insight and honesty of Jay’s opus. It is available from Amazon and at most book stores and in various formats. If you haven’t read it, pick it up. Below is the announcement of the film option as written in the Daily Collegian by Madeline Messa.

### Jay Paterno's book optioned for movie

*By Madeline Messa | The Daily Collegian Dec 15, 2016*

Jay Paterno’s book, “Paterno Legacy: Enduring Lessons from the Life and Death of My Father,” has been optioned for a movie.

Published in 2014, the book is a biography of Joe Paterno and documents his life as a father and grandfather, as well as detailing his illustrious career as Penn State’s football coach. The biography also notes the events and controversies surrounding Joe Paterno circa 2012.



Jay Paterno announced the possibility of a movie rendition on Twitter on Friday morning.

The possibility is probably slim, however. Most optioned books never see the silver screen. Authors enter a contract with a potential film producer and typically receive a payment to give up their film rights, but they are not guaranteed a movie.

## Those who stayed...

### 6 Recruits from the 2012 Class

By Corey Masisak, Reprinted from "Land of 19"



**STATE COLLEGE, Pa.** — Brian Gaia committed to play for Penn State in May 2011. Nyeem Wartman-White, Malik Golden and Derek Dowrey all picked the Nittany Lions before their senior seasons in high school began.

Wartman-White is injured, and Dowrey hasn't received much playing time this season, but those four players have traversed quite a journey to get to this point. Along with Evan Schwan and Wendy Laurent, who committed a few days before National Signing Day, those six players are what remains of Penn State's 2012 recruiting class. This has been an incredible season for Penn State football, winning the Big Ten title and reaching the Rose Bowl. It is definitely not how the remaining members of the Class of 2012 expected to end their collegiate careers.

"It's such a great culmination. The history of the game, no one thought we would be here," Gaia said. "Even the kids in our class, we thought when we committed this would be the first year to even be able to go to a bowl game. For us to be in the Rose Bowl is just awesome."

Those four players — Gaia, Wartman-White, Golden and Dowrey — remained committed to the program after the horrific details from former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse became public knowledge. They stayed committed after one of the most contentious regime changes in the history of the sport.

Those six players came to campus in the summer of 2012 and about a month later, they were told there would be no bowl games for the next four seasons, among a list of other sanctions.

Coaches from other programs were allowed by the NCAA to re-recruit them. They were free to leave at any point without penalty for more than a full calendar year after the sanctions were levied, even after their freshmen seasons and up until preseason camp in 2013.

Yet they stayed.

"It means a lot, not only for me but the rest of my teammates," junior wideout Chris Godwin said of helping these fifth-year players end their careers in Pasadena. "Knowing what the program has been through, knowing what these seniors have been through, it means so much to not only get them to a bowl game, but the 'granddaddy of them all.'

"They don't really talk about it at all. The past is the past and we can't really change that. We all just focus on what we can do to maximize our opportunities today."

Anytime a scandal rocks a college football program, the next recruiting class to sign immediately is in flux. Players who were committed have to re-think a huge decision, and they didn't have all of the information an 18-year-old should when deciding what college football team to play for.

Six players who were committed the day of the first reporting in the Sandusky scandal didn't sign a letter of intent. Among them were former Pitt tight end J.P. Holtz, former Florida/Columbia quarterback Skyler Mornhinweg and three players who ended up at Ohio State — Cam Williams, Armani Reeves and Joey O'Connor. A seventh, Jamil Pollard, decided to leave school after the sanctions were announced and enrolled at Rutgers.

There were plenty more defections. Quarterback Steven Branch didn't want to sit behind Christian Hackenberg, so he left for South Florida. Two class members, DaQuan Davis and Brent Wilkerson, have been dismissed from the team. Anthony Stanko left the program in 2013 when the NCAA-mandated window was still open. Jonathan Warner left the following April.

Two guys, Jessie James and Austin Johnson, left a year early for the NFL. Two others, Jordan Lucas and Trevor Williams, played four years and joined them.

The last batch of defections came in January. Four players, including former starters Geno Lewis and Akeel Lynch, took advantage of the NCAA's graduate transfer rule and went elsewhere for a final season, though Lynch retired because of injuries.

So there are only six from the Class of 2012 still standing. Golden is a constant presence in the defensive secondary. Gaia made the move to center this year and has had a few hiccups in Penn State's shotgun-only offense, but otherwise has been an anchor for an offensive line that has dealt with plenty of injuries and lineup shuffling.

The NCAA eased off on some of the sanctions. This will be the third bowl game for this group, not the first. There were 85 scholarships available for the 2016 team, after initially thinking the sanctions were going to allow only 65 through the 2017 season.

James Franklin and his staff have recruited more highly touted players than the 2012 group, and that was part of why Lewis and Lynch didn't stay. It's also part of why Dowrey and Laurent don't play as much as they used to, but they will get to experience one of college football's great traditions with the Rose Bowl.

Schwan has authored a slightly different story. He and Laurent, to put it bluntly, were backup plans. When some of those guys listed above de-committed, new coach Bill O'Brien and his staff needed to find more players in a short amount of time. (*continued, p. 6*)

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## Those who stayed...

*Continued from p. 5*

According to 247Sports, Schwan took an official visit on Jan. 27, committed the next day and signed his letter of intent Feb. 1. He was a pretty unheralded player from Harrisburg, and like many of the kids in the Class of 2012 spent the past couple years showing up for fall camp with younger, more heralded players joining the team.

Schwan had 31 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss in the past three seasons. Instead of getting passed over, he's become an integral part of Penn State's pass rush. He has six sacks, tied with Garrett Sickles for the team lead, and 8.5 tackles for loss among his 28 stops.

Assigning levels of how much something means like it is a statistic is nonsense, a silly narrative used far too often in sports. No one knows if this Rose Bowl will mean "more" to these six players who have remained loyal to a program when there were so many opportunities to take an easier path.

But they are still here, and that should mean a lot to their teammates and the people who cheer for them.

"To play in such a prestigious game is such a huge honor, especially after winning the Big Ten championship," Schwan said. "This whole season has been unreal. It still hasn't set in for me what has happened. I don't know when it will."

"I can't wait for that moment."



**2017 CALENDAR**

### January

- **1/2 Rose Bowl vs USC 5 PM (Milardo's)**
- **1/15 Annual Dinner ticket on sale to the general public**
- **1/18 Winter Board meeting at Maggie D's Restaurant at 6:30 PM**
- **TBA Chapter Board Meeting**

### February

- **TBA THON event**

### March

- **3/31 Annual Dinner 6:30 PM Pine Lakes CC**

### April

- **4/19 Spring Board meeting at TBonz Restaurant 6:30 PM**
- **TBA MB Pelicans game for chapter members "Night Out"**

### May

- **TBA MB Pelicans game for chapter members "Night Out"**
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### June

- **6/11 Annual Membership meeting and picnic at the International Club Amenities Center.**

## Spotlight on McClelland Travel and Spring House Restaurant in NMB: It's business AND pleasure for local PSU Alumni



Dennis and Dale with Jay Paterno and Daryll Clark at last year's annual dinner.

Join the Myrtle Beach Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association for a 7 day cruise aboard the Celebrity Silhouette, departing February 18, 2018!!!

Dennis and Dale McClelland are local travel agents who have offered our chapter members a great vacation opportunity through Celebrity Cruise Lines. The trip is out of Fort Lauderdale and includes 7 day cruise to the Caribbean including stops in Cozumel, Mexico; Puerto Costa Maya, Mexico; and Georgetown, Grand Cayman.

The accommodations include a Veranda Category Cabin from \$1499.43 (double occupancy) which includes all taxes, fees, and gratuities.

Visit their website [www.mcclellandtravel.com](http://www.mcclellandtravel.com). for more information.



### Spring House NMB offers Great Food in the Penn State tradition

Rod and Dana Zamrik own and operate the Original Spring House Restaurant in North Myrtle Beach. Rod is a PSU ('86) alumni who worked at the Corner Room and Highway Pizza, then moved here and purchased the Spring House, which was originally opened in 1991. On the morning we met Dana at the restaurant (we had a great breakfast) we learned that Spring House north is independent from the same named restaurant in Murrells Inlet. In fact there is a name change in the offing that will be announced soon.

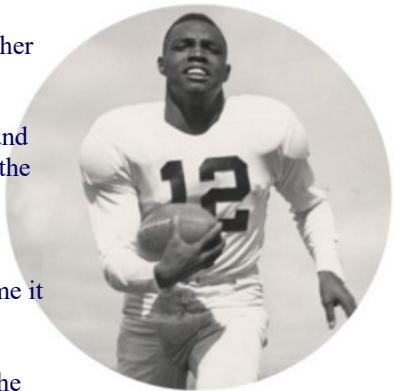
The Zamriks are open for breakfast lunch and dinner with a varied menu of home style foods. We welcome them to our chapter and look forward to stopping in for a great meal. We hope you stop in as well.



*“We are... Penn State! Thank you. You’re welcome!”*

The chant that is heard at every game, especially after something good happens. The *We are* chant is also a common greeting and when it gets the proper response, one knows he is among friends and fellow alumni. But where did the chant originate? And what is behind its ubiquity in Lion circles? No one who has attended this great institution is unaware of its power to connect us to one another anywhere in the world.

Well, as many of us know, the chant has something to do with Wally Triplett and Dennie Hoggard, two black players on the 1946 team. Wally was recruited by the Miami University Hurricanes but his scholarship was rescinded when the university learned he was black. Triplett then decided to cast his fate with the Nittany Lions and joined the team in 1945. At the end of that season the Lions were scheduled to play the same Miami team that rejected Triplett. At that time it was common for schools that played segregated programs to leave their black players behind. When the Penn State team was told that the game scheduled Miami could only be played if the Lions left their two black players at home, the team met and decided to cancel the game, thus setting a precedent. The mantra “We are Penn State” was born as this was the message that came out of that meeting. Team captain, Steve Suhey, stated the team’s and university’s position: “We are Penn State. We all play or none!” The result was that Miami cancelled the game,



Triplett was an integral part of the Lion 1948 Cotton Bowl team that tied SMU 13-13 with Triplett scoring the tying TD. Prior to that game the SMU team requested a meeting to protest Triplett’s and Hoggard’s presence in the previously segregated bowl game. Penn State refused the meeting. When the two black players were denied lodging with their team in local hotels, the team chose to be housed all together at the U.S. Naval Base nearby, refusing to be separated from their teammates.

Wally went on to become the first African American to earn a varsity letter at Penn State, and the first drafted into the NFL by the Detroit Lions in 1949. Triplett’s portrait hangs in the National Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio because of this distinction.

For a fuller explanation go to this ESPN site and watch the video. It reaffirms the pride that stands behind our chant, “We are Penn State,” It truly is all of us or none.

<http://www.espn.com/video/clip?id=15695869> or read the story on Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace\\_Triplett#Penn\\_State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace_Triplett#Penn_State)

## The Back Cover Story...



JVP, Author of an unprecedented era of excellence. The “Joe” we all came to know and respect...

*Reprinted from our website blog*

*Lest we forget in this year when James Franklin started a new era of Penn State excellence, there was a time when every year, it seemed, was filled with hope and excitement. The era preceding this new one lasted 45 years—from 1966 to 2011. For those of us who witnessed it all first hand, it was very special, and so was he.*

Many of us were there. The Fall of 1966 was in retrospect the start of an era that may never again be duplicated in the annals of collegiate sport. Despite attempts of late to discredit the era of excellence ushered in by Joseph Vincent Paterno, we will never forget.

There were victories--plenty of them--but Joe Paterno placed the victories in the larger context of collegiate life, education and life lessons. His players practiced and played, but they also studied and lived among us. There were no "players's dorms" or special dining at Joe's Penn State. This was one point of pride we shared.

Did we know back then that there would be national championships, Heisman Trophy winners, and Bowl victories? I, for one, had no clue. As we look back on his era and our time as Penn State alumni, our pride was based on more than the victories, we knew that our program--his program--was greater than that. His players were boys when they arrived, and left campus as men. They graduated and contributed in their communities. Some were NFL stars, others became leaders in business, politics, and the arts. However, each and every one was held to the highest of standards. And still, they won. As Joe's victory total grew, it was only exceeded by his generosity, his notable contributions to Pattee Library, and the greater university community. As his fame and influence increased, his coaching salary remained one of the lowest in the sport.

*...There were victories—plenty of them—but Joe Paterno placed the victories in the larger context of collegiate life, education and life lessons...*

Those of us who were lucky enough, privileged, to be there when Joseph Vincent Paterno owned the sidelines will never forget his legacy, and will forever be grateful for the role he played in making Penn State a national example of collegiate sport done with conscience. No, we will never forget.

This week we celebrate that beginning of the era. No matter what others may say, what others may insinuate, what others may try to do to tarnish that time and its author, we stand as witnesses to his greatness and his drive for excellence and goodness. We Are, and always will be, in his debt. We are...Penn State.