



PennState Alumni Association Triangle Chapter

SUMMER 2017
NEWSLETTER

Annual Chapter Membership Drive Underway

As summer heats up and the calendar turns to July, many of us begin to gear up for vacations, picnics, family reunions, and other summertime activities. For the Triangle Chapter, this time of year also means the end of one year and the beginning of a brand new one.

It's fun to look back on the many accomplishments of the previous year. For the second year in a row, we raised nearly \$10,000 for THON. We provided a local student with a \$4000 scholarship. We donated more than a ton of food to the Urban Ministries of Wake County. And we filled our event calendar with a variety of activities including career and networking events, football parties, Durham Bulls games, a Hurricanes Hockey game, ice cream socials, and of course our annual Chapter picnic.

As we look forward to a new year, the Chapter board is planning to do all of these things again and hopefully much, much more. We also know that very little of it would be possible without a vibrant membership. Last year, our chapter had well over 400 members for the first time in many years,

and we would love to see that number pushed to even greater heights this year. We hope you will consider supporting our Chapter by joining or renewing your annual membership.

Annual dues will once again be only \$15 per family. New graduates will once again be offered a free one-year membership. Additionally, this year we are introducing a free student membership for all Triangle-area students who attend Penn State. One third of your dues goes directly to our Chapter's endowed scholarship fund. The rest helps us to continue supporting the community and local alumni through the many programs and events described above and on the pages of this newsletter. We need your help to continue our efforts to grow as a Chapter. To join the Chapter or renew your existing membership, please visit our website or fill out the enclosed membership form and return it with payment to the address provided.

If you have any questions about membership, please contact Dan Stahlman (stahlman@alumni.psu.edu)

THON 2017 FUNDRAISER WAS ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual THON Watch Party at Dave and Buster's this year! We are beyond proud and astonished to announce our collective 2017 total fundraising amount for the year from the TriPSU Alumni Chapter was \$9,579.62! Our total online donations from THON's website was \$6,780, and our total local donations from the chapter was \$2,799.62.

Since 1977, THON has raised more than \$136 million for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. The 2017 total was an incredible \$10,045,478.44 overall! Thanks again to everyone who donated and making this our absolute best year yet! The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, affectionately known as THON, is a yearlong effort to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. THON 2017 took place on February 17th - 19th, at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center. The Triangle Chapter held our annual THON Party again at Dave and Buster's in Cary Towne Centre on Sunday, February 19th this year, and close to 50 people attended. We enjoyed having a private viewing of "The Grand Experiment" from the PSU Libraries, which focused on Penn State Football and Joe Paterno. We were able to watch the live THON web-feed straight from the BJC together and enjoyed a silent auction of PSU memorabilia, as well as goods and services donated from local vendors! We ate & drank, played games and enjoyed all the PSU camaraderie. Thank you to everyone who supported and donated to THON this year.

THON 2018 will be held February 16-18 in the Bryce Jordan Center and we will once again plan to be at Dave and Buster's in Cary Towne Centre. On Sunday, we will gather for the final four hours, which are charged with electricity and energy before the 2018 total is revealed. If you are interested in joining the THON planning committee please let us know! Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more information coming this fall.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

While this was not an election year, the Executive Board has seen some recent turnover. We would like to extend Congratulations and a warm welcome to Anita and Allyson. Thank you for stepping up to fulfill the final year of the two-year term which began in July 2016.

Executive Board:

President – Don Torino

Vice President – Brian Shaunessy

Secretary – Anita Trnka

Treasurer – Allyson Wharton

The officers are supported by a number of small committees. If you are interested in volunteering your time as part of the Social, Thon/Philanthropy, Student Relations, or Communications committees, please let us know. You can contribute as much or as little time as you wish! The Board continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at Moe's Southwestern Grill at 127 Weston Parkway, Cary (the Harrison Ave exit of I-40.)

Success After State: Alumni Career Services Events

We held two career networking events this year, both at MetLife in Cary. The first event, held in January, delved into the topic of marketing yourself while looking for a job. The second event, held in June, explored the Art of Career Networking.

Both events featured Cheryl Bonner, Director of Alumni Career Services for the Alumni Association, who discussed what Alumni Career Services can do for Penn State Alumni throughout their career, including job hunting, career planning, networking, and professional development. She also shared strategies for connecting with other Triangle Area Penn Staters and acquiring new skills for networking professionally and personally. Robert Tabil, who works in Global Talent Acquisition at MetLife, also joined us to discuss interviewing from an HR Perspective. Aaron Snead, TECHEAD Director of Strategic Accounts, discussed the advantages and disadvantages of working as a Contractor.

Cheryl was kind enough to bring Penn State Berkey Creamery ice cream for the 30+ attendees to enjoy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

07/18/2017	Chapter Meeting Moe's - Cary, 6:30pm
08/03/2017	Happy Valley Hour Location TBD, 6 pm
08/15/2017	Chapter Meeting Moe's - Cary, 6:30pm
08/31/2017	Happy Valley Hour Location TBD, 6 pm
09/02/2017	Football TV Tailgate - Akron Rookie's, Noon
09/09/2017	Football TV Tailgate - Pittsburgh Rookie's, 3:30 pm
09/16/2017	Football TV Tailgate - Georgia State Rookie's, 7:30 pm
09/19/2017	Chapter Meeting Moe's - Cary, 6:30pm

Check <http://www.tripsu.org/> for an updated calendar of events.

Social Committee Report

It's been a great year for the Triangle Chapter's social committee! We enjoyed our third season of Football TV Tailgates at Rookie's Sports Park in RTP, with record crowds of more than 150 fans for several games, including the Big Ten Championship game against Wisconsin and the Rose Bowl. We'll be meeting there again every football Saturday this Fall to cheer on our Nittany Lions so come on down and join us. There is no charge to attend. We offer a 50/50 raffle every game to benefit our scholarship fund or THON, and every member is entered for free in a halftime raffle to win lots of cool PSU swag. Plus, Rookie's offers great food and beverage specials, and so many TVs tuned into the game, so wherever you sit, you have a great view!

Through the football season we competed in the 4th Annual Food Drive Challenge with other local Big10 Alumni association chapters. We once again donated over ONE TON of food to Urban Ministries of Wake County, far outpacing our competitors. Thank you to all who donated so much food and time for this worthy cause. For the first time this year, we participated in the THON Virtual 5k. Twenty-five runners and walkers headed out for 3.1 fun miles along the American Tobacco Trail while hundreds of runners took to the streets of State College. It's really Penn Staters making a difference!

In the past year, the Chapter enjoyed an ice cream social at Maple View Farms, Happy Valley Hours at Carolina Ale House and TMac, a Carolina Hurricanes hockey game, a Wine & Design Penn State night featuring a custom Nittany Lion painting and a Durham Bulls baseball game. Turnout for these events has been great and we hope to continue to offer a wide variety of events for our members. This year we are hoping make Happy Valley Hour a monthly event with locations rotating throughout the Triangle.

The 2016-2017 year saw the Penn State men's and women's tennis teams and the men's baseball team play in the Triangle. We are very excited to announce that the Penn State Men's Basketball Team will visit the Triangle to take on NC State in the Big Ten-ACC Challenge this Fall. Stay tuned for more info, but we'll certainly have something big planned!

Our recent annual picnic was a big success this year. Held in early June, it also serves as our Student Send-off, welcoming incoming Penn State freshmen into the fold. The Chapter was pleased to present new Penn Staters in attendance with a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble. Families of new and current students and alumni enjoyed catering by City Barbeque and Berkey Creamery ice cream on a gorgeous Saturday in Cary, NC.

The Chapter aims to organize a wide variety of social events to appeal to our diverse membership. If you are interested in joining the social committee or have suggestions for future social events, please contact Cassie Proper at (cassandra.proper@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you in 2017-2018!

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

What a fantastic year for the Triangle Chapter! This year, our Chapter has reached heights we’ve never reached before, engaging greater numbers of local alumni, and sharing a wide range of social events for all interests and ages.

Of course, the success of our football team helped greatly, as we saw the attendance of our Football TV Tailgates increase sharply at our home, Rookie’s Sports Park in Durham. This past season, we averaged over 100 people at our game parties, with 190 attending the Big Ten Championship game, and over 200 cheering on together for the Rose Bowl! Rookie’s is a great central location for our gatherings, with great service and food, and they’ve donated many of the halftime prizes to give away to our members.

The higher attendance at our game parties also increased our overall scholarship donation this year. As many of you know, our Chapter has an endowed scholarship with the University. Currently, the value of the scholarship account is over \$85,000, and this year we set records for our donations to the account and for the total scholarship we awarded to a local student attending Penn State. This fall, we’ll be awarding a \$4,300 scholarship, our highest amount ever, which is a pretty good chunk of change considering the ever-increasing cost of attending Penn State. Thanks to everyone who contributes to our scholarship fund!

This year, we saw our greatest contribution to THON in our Chapter’s history, over \$9,500! We again held our THON party at Dave & Buster’s in Cary, and the University Libraries returned to deliver a very interesting multimedia program for us, an exclusive screening of a Joe Paterno documentary. Our silent auction continues to raise a significant amount of money, and we thank all of our very generous sponsors who provide the fodder for our auction.

Of course, the strength of our Chapter comes in numbers, specifically our members. This year we broke the 300 membership limit for the first time in a decade, as we introduced innovative programs targeting new graduates and local World Campus students and alumni. Our Chapter’s dues remain a low \$15 for a family membership (you and your immediate family are covered under the one membership), and your first year after graduation is free.

With so many members, we maintain a vibrant social event schedule. This year, we had over 50 alumni join us for Carolina Hurricane and Durham Bulls games, and we had a record number of attendees at our annual picnic in June. We’ve shared Creamery –inspired ice cream at Maple View Farms in Hillsborough, and a few pints at Happy Valley Hours at bars around the Triangle. We also had two career services events, focusing on the value of the Penn State network.

To me, our greatest accomplishment this year has been the service we do for others. This fall, we again donated over a ton of food for Urban Ministries of Wake County as part of our Food Drive Challenge. As a result of our continuing efforts, the Alumni Association has awarded us a Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service Project, the first time our Chapter has received such national recognition. The thanks go to all of our members who so generously give to such a worthy cause!

I look forward to another record-breaking year for the Triangle Chapter. I hope you join us, whether it’s for the first time or the thirtieth!

For the glory,
 Don Torino, President
dontorino@alumni.psu.edu

July 2017 – June 2018 Triangle Chapter Membership Form (PRINT) Online:

http://tripsu.org/membership_form

Name:	Spouse’s Name:
Address:	Spouse’s Grad Year/Degree/Major/Alma Mater
Email(s):	Home phone:
PSU Grad Year/Degree/Major:	Cell Phone:
Comments/Request for activities:	Annual Family Membership Dues are \$15. You may also include a tax-deductible donation to the Chapter’s endowed scholarship fund with your payment.
Make checks payable to Triangle Penn State Chapter. Check here if this is a free student membership: _____ Check here if this is a free first-year grad membership: _____	Mail this form and check to: Triangle Penn State Chapter – Membership PO Box 1215 Morrisville, NC 27560-1215

TRIANGLE CHAPTER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

For the first time in our Chapter's history, the Triangle Chapter has been selected by the Penn State Alumni Association to receive an award for the Annual Food Drive Challenge in the Outstanding Service Project category of the 2017 Volunteer Awards Program!

From the Alumni Association: "At its heart, the Penn State Alumni Association is a volunteer organization which is committed to doing good work in the name of our alma mater. Thank you for serving as a leader in this capacity and for helping us to advance the mission of the alumni association. We are proud of your group and its accomplishments."

The Triangle Chapter shares its pride with its members who have so strongly supported our food drive the past several years. In our first year, we collected about 600 pounds of food. In the second year, we doubled our effort, raising about 1,200 pounds. In the past two years, we've raised over 2,000 pounds, earning the "One Ton Club" designation from our beneficiary, Urban Ministries of Wake County. Along the way, we've multiplied our efforts by challenging other local alumni groups to raise food themselves, including Triangle-area Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio State alumni groups, and Piedmont-area Penn State and Michigan alumni chapters.

Much thanks goes to all of our members who generously donated food and money towards this worthy cause, and recognition is deserved for our Philanthropy Chairpersons who have spearheaded this effort, Mark Gifford and Ashley Acornley. Let's keep the momentum going this fall!

Keep up with us by checking out our website at <http://www.tripsu.org/>, by following us on Twitter @tripsu, by following us on Instagram at @pennstatetrianglenc or by joining our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pennstatetrianglenc>!