

Phoenix Chapter



WE ARE



PENN

STATE



Lions in the Sun



Letter from the President

Dear Alumni, Friends and Fans,

I cannot believe that another summer has past and it is already time for us to come together every Saturday and begin another season as a Chapter. On behalf of the Board, I would like to personally thank all of you for being a part of our Chapter. We could not do what we do in the Valley without your help, support and time.

When I moved here in August, 2007, barely out of college, I moved with nothing more than what would fit in my ugly, maroon "loser cruiser". My dad, his fiancé and I drove 2000 miles west from the small town of Selinsgrove, over the Mississippi River, through Texas, into Phoenix. At that time, I had no plans beyond a 6 month internship. I had no family here. I moved to a city I had visited once before. I had never been farther than a 45 minute drive from my family. After I dropped them off at the airport, I realized that I was alone. The most alone I had felt since my first night, freshman semester. A couple of weeks of getting lost on the 51 later, it was the beginning of football season. We had no cable in my tiny guest house and there was no way I could let a fall Saturday pass without football. A Google search later and I found the Phoenix Chapter. I drove across the Valley to go to our watch bar. I was immediately welcomed by Jen who enthusiastically teased me for being a new graduate, but also made me feel like I was at home. I found myself in a place where I was 2000 miles from home, but yet, everything was so familiar. To this day, I love walking into Temple Bar and hearing conversations about State College, the Philly/Burgh rivalry, Knoe-

bels Grove, Yuengling Beer, and other things that constantly remind me of Pennsylvania. Penn State has brought us all together, regardless if you are a graduate, a parent of a Penn Stater, a State College native, a spouse or friend or maybe you have no connection to Penn State at all and are just a fan. This community that we have as a Chapter is personally important to me being far from home. My Chapter family has become my second family and like any family, we help each other. As a Chapter, we give back to the Phoenix area in yearly scholarships to current Penn State students. We feed Phoenix area families with our donations to St. Marys' Food Bank. We keep Arizona beautiful by cleaning up a stretch of freeway. We help build houses for Valley families with Habitat for Humanity. We volunteered in classrooms to stress the importance of education. We donated and danced for a cure to pediatric cancer. We have been recognized as a Chapter of Distinction for all of these efforts for a number of years. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Building a Southwest Community

This year our Phoenix Chapter has made some great strides in creating a Penn State community, not just within the Phoenix area, but across the Southwest. Something as simple as networking with fellow alumni visitors at one of the football games has blossomed into several new relationships. Initially, we participated with the LA Chapter in the "Lights. Camera. Cure." charity, then further strengthened some of these ties at the Alumni Leadership conference in San Diego. These both have provided great learning experiences and have given us resources we hope to take

Upcoming Events

details inside!

Student Send-Off

Sunday, August 4 • 2-4 pm
Temple Bar, Scottsdale
Families welcome!

Preseason Pool Party

Saturday, August 24 • 6-9 pm
Home of Mark and Carol Brennan
Families welcome!

Creamery Ice Cream Orders
Order by August 15

Penn State vs. Syracuse

Saturday August 31 • 12:30pm AZ
Temple Bar, Scottsdale

advantage of in the seasons to come. "Lights. Camera. Cure." (<http://www.lightscameracure.com/>) is a THON inspired charity event which takes place in March this year at the Avalon Theater in Hollywood. The proceeds of the event also benefit the Four Diamonds Fund and their fight against pediatric cancer. We had several people sign up to dance and raise money this year from Phoenix and the event was a great success, with the over \$67,000 raised. It is a growing event and we hope to continue participation in the years to come. Not only were we able to raise money for cancer, but the event itself is tremendously *(continued on page 2)*

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Phoenix Chapter is open to alumni, family, friends and fans of Penn State. Annual dues go to support all our events, activities, community service projects, and scholarships for local Penn State students. Aside from belonging to the largest network of Penn Staters in Arizona, benefits of being a member include:

- social and networking events
- members-only website access and private member directory
- free buffets at select football games
- raffle contests and prizes
- discounts

Don't wait! Become a member or renew online today!

Membership levels

Regular membership • \$25

Household membership • \$25

If both you and your spouse are Penn State grads, we will give you two memberships for the price of one!

Premium membership • \$50

For all Penn State alumni, friends, and family; Includes an advertisement posted on our website.

New PSU graduate • FREE

If you graduated from Penn State during the Fall 2012 semester or later, your first year of membership is on us!

Chapter LIFE membership • \$250

Help guarantee long-term growth and vitality of the Phoenix Chapter with a one-time donation and never worry about annual dues again! Household LIFE membership is also \$250 and includes membership for both you AND your spouse!

STAY CONNECTED

Check out our website at www.psuaz.com and take advantage of features such as:

- online event calendar and RSVPs
- private member directory
- setting up email preferences
- safe and secure payments for memberships and ice cream orders
- and much more!

You can also find us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **LinkedIn**, so be sure to include the Phoenix Chapter as part of your social and professional network!



facebook.com/PhoenixChapter



@PSAAPhoenix



Penn State Alumni Association

THANK YOU PSAA PHOENIX LIFE MEMBERS!

MARY ANDERSON • MARIE CALVANO • MICHAEL CRANDALL •
STEPHEN DUGAN • TONY GAERTNER • ERIC KULINNA •
CHRIS and KRIS McCURDY • KATHRYN ODLAND • MEG PATERSON

EVENTS CALENDAR

2nd Annual STUDENT SEND-OFF

Sunday, August 4 2-4pm

Come to Temple Bar for appetizers, raffle and the awarding of the 2013 scholarships. All families of incoming and current students are welcome.

Please RSVP on our events page at www.psuaz.com.

Annual Season Kickoff POOL PARTY

Saturday, August 24 6-9 pm

It isn't football season until we kick things off Phoenix-style with our annual pool party! Come socialize with fellow Penn Staters at the home of **Mark and Carol Brennan!** We will have plenty of Penn State treats including Creamery ice cream shipped straight from Happy Valley. Families are welcome so bring the kids and pack the bathing suits!

Appetizer contest: Please bring a Penn State-themed appetizer to share! PLEASE RSVP **before August 18** using the event link on our website www.psuaz.com so that we can get an accurate headcount for food.

Order your CREAMERY ICE CREAM

Orders due by August 15

Follow the event listing on our website and select your flavors. The price is \$20 per half gallon and you can pay online or by check.

Orders must be picked up at the pool party unless you make prior arrangements.



2013 Chapter Officers

Tamara Abromitis '07
President

Mike Crandall '07/current
Vice President

Brian Godla '05
Treasurer

Mark Conklin '00
Secretary

Jon Badalamenti '07
Immediate Past President

Board Members

Jen DeSalvo Watson '96 • Venesa Duck '05 • Jeanne Dwyer • Rob Dwyer '88 • Kristen Jones • Pete Lisicky '98 • Jesse Mancuso '04 • Jen Moser '95 • Ron Short '78 • Jane Short • Deb Trojanowski • Julie Villa • Lee Vozel '89 • Fara Walling '96

Contact us

Email phxchapter@gmail.com

Phone 1-800-871-9012 ext. 59578#

(Southwest Community continued from front page)



fun and everyone involved got to make new Penn State friends. Keep this in mind in the months to follow and let's make this an event we can impact as a chapter!

The Alumni Leadership Connections Conference is hosted by the National Alumni Association for local alumni association volunteers to share information and make new connections with Penn State leaders around the country. Some of our board members attended this event this year in San Diego and found it very beneficial. In addition to meet-

ing most of the Alumni Association staff from University Park, we were also joined by Penn Staters from the LA, Orange County, San Diego, San Francisco, and Minnesota chapters. We were able to further grow our networks amongst alumni leaders in the southwest as well as get some great takeaways on how other chapters handle day to day business. It was great to see the brainstorming and we hope to make use of some of these ideas, keeping our alumni proud to be part of the Phoenix Chapter of the Alumni Association. (continued on page 3)

President's Letter (continued from front page)

Our Chapter's impact on this community is not invisible. We are not only making an impact here, in Arizona, but also across the country in Pennsylvania.

We could do none of this without you: the Chapter members. Your yearly membership keeps this Chapter alive and the ability to fuel the giving that we do. Many people have asked "What do I get for my membership?" The obvious answers are buffets, a store discount, membership access on PSUAZ.com and the ability to order Creamery Ice Cream, but the bigger impact is to our community. You get to give back to students, families and the community in which you live.

As a poor college graduate, I wrote a check at that first game without question. I never once questioned what I was getting, but just knowing I was around family so far from home was enough for me to know my money was in the right place. So I encourage all of you to renew your membership, start a new membership or make an ongoing life donation to the Chapter. I challenge the Chapter to give more scholarships for more dollars, to give a larger donation to St. Mary's Food Bank, to take more dancers and donations to Los Angeles to dance for the 2014 Lights, Camera, Cure event and to make this year the best year for the Chapter. All of these goals, I cannot achieve alone. You, the members, fuel the Chapter's success. If any of you would like to get more involved with our outreach events or if there is something that you want to see the Chapter doing, please let me know.

I am so excited for this season and cannot wait to see what this year holds for the Phoenix Chapter. As my second family, I cannot wait to see everyone at all of our events this year.

Blue and White Forever,
 Tamara Abromitis '07
 Phoenix Chapter President

2013 Penn State Football Schedule



all times local AZ where noted; all other game times TBA

-  Aug. 31 • **Syracuse** • 12:00 pm
-  Sept. 7 • **Eastern Mich** • 9:00 am
-  Sept. 14 • **UCF** • 3:00 pm
-  Sept. 21 • **Kent State**
-  Sept. 29 • at Indiana
-  Oct. 12 • **Michigan** • 3:00 pm
-  Oct. 20 • at Iowa • 5:00 pm
-  Oct. 26 • at Ohio State • 6:00 pm
-  Nov. 2 • **Illinois**
-  Nov. 9 • at Minnesota
-  Nov. 16 • **Purdue**
-  Nov. 23 • **Nebraska**
-  Nov. 30 • **Wisconsin**

Join us at Beaver Stadium West

We are excited to have **Temple Bar Sports Grill** as our exclusive host again this year! Stay tuned for more information about buffet dates and specials. As always, we will have a raffle at halftime for PSU prizes!

Temple Bar is located at 17050 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy. in north Scottsdale, 1.9 mi. east of the Loop 101 and Bell Rd. www.templebaraz.com

2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kylee Orriss, Phoenix
 Class of 2014
 University Park
 Major: Public Relations

Jason Perrin, Surprise
 Class of 2014
 World Campus
 Major: Psychology

Congratulations to our winners and good luck in 2014 to all Valley of the Sun PSU students!!

Homecoming •
 October 12 vs. Michigan



**GENERATIONS EVOLVE
 TRADITION REMAINS**
PENN STATE HOMECOMING 2013

Are you heading back to Happy Valley for Homecoming? Email us at phxchapter@gmail.com if you'd like to march with us in the parade Friday October 11!

(Southwest Community continued from page 2)

We are still in the learning stages this year and we hope to continue nurturing and growing our community going forward. If given the opportunity, find a travelling alumni at one of our games and make them feel at home or look up a local chapter while out of town. You won't be disappointed by what can come from new relationships. We look forward to seeing everyone out for the games and hopefully participating in some of these events! Let's represent Penn State across the Southwest and show our respective communities that WE ARE... PENN STATE!

Mark Conklin '01
 Phoenix Chapter Secretary/Raffle Salesman

Season-long Food/Fund Drive to Benefit St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance

A very Penn Stately THANK YOU to everyone who contributed funds and/or canned goods to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance during the 2012 season. Together, we collected a total of 457 pounds of food, which translates to 457 meals for those in need in our community (1 pound of food = 1 meal)! This is a huge increase from our 2011 donation of 106 pounds of food! In addition, our generous monetary donations of \$1,120 equated to 7840 additional meals! In case you were wondering how we arrived at that figure, \$1 donated = 7 meals, so monetary donations really allow for St. Mary's to maximize their ability to provide much needed food staples for those in need.



We are holding another season long food/fund drive this year with a special end-of-season raffle specifically for those who donate-so start bringing in your canned goods and monetary donations! We'll also have the opportunity to volunteer our time and see firsthand where our donations are going!

When you donate, please use the donation number **DN5166** so that the Phoenix Chapter can be credited. Checks should be made payable to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

Phoenix Chapter



**Penn State
Alumni Association**

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PHOENIX, AZ
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c/o Tamara Abromitis '07

2113 N 68th PI
Scottsdale, AZ 85257



Penn State's Alumni Association is all about building traditions, creating memories, and establishing relationships to last a lifetime. We encourage you to stay involved, even after graduating, to share your experiences and testimonies, promoting lifelong relationships and a link between Penn State's Alumni Association Members, students, graduates, faculty, and staff.

Maintain your ties and share your professional and personal accomplishments with your Penn State family!

Participate in the Real Life program by becoming a Life Member of the Alumni Association and the Phoenix Chapter gets \$50. Visit www.alumni.psu.edu/4life for the membership application and choose Phoenix Chapter (code: CBH).

Update your information and never miss out: www.alumni.psu.edu



**Penn State
Alumni Association**