

2000 Best Practices

Award-winning programming for
Alumni Association affiliate groups



**Penn State
Alumni Association**

Hintz Family Alumni Center
800-548-LION
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SOCIETY AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

As part of its annual recognition program, the Penn State Alumni Association will present awards to alumni societies that have distinguished themselves through exceptional alumni program offerings. The awards will recognize societies and their programs that most effectively support the four purposes of a society as set forth in the Penn State Alumni Association bylaws as follows: stimulate continued interest in the University; act as informal advisory board to college/campus; provide additional avenues for identification, contact, and representation of alumni; provide alumni means to join together for the enrichment of their college/campus. An award will be given in each of two categories: those which are new, innovative, and creative as the first category, and those which have a proven record of success and can be viewed as an outstanding accomplishment of the society as the second category.

Innovative Alumni Society Programs

2000

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Student Seminar Series

The College of Communications Alumni Society started a Student Seminar Series in the Fall of 1998 with the goal of bringing alumni back to Penn State to serve as panelists, presenters, and facilitators to interact with current College students. One to two seminars are held each semester. To date, the following seminars have taken place within the series: "Women in Media," "A Job Hunter's Guide for the New Century," "Careers in Sports Media," and "Where the Jobs Are: Applying Your Communications Degree to the 21st Century."

Contact: Kristen Fortney, 814-865-3938, klk104@psu.edu

1999

MONT ALTO ALUMNI SOCIETY

Graduating Senior Reception at University Park

The Mont Alto Alumni Society hosted the first-ever reception for Penn State Mont Alto students graduating from the University Park campus. The reception was held at the Nittany Lion Inn. Seventy-six students attended. Following the event, the society sent letters to all Mont Alto alumni congratulating them on their graduation and asked them to keep in touch and volunteer.

Contact: Chris Rotz, 717-749-6105, car6@psu.edu

1998

BERKS ALUMNI SOCIETY

LA PARK Community Playground

Two years ago the Berks Alumni Society began planning the renovation of a downtown Reading elementary school playground since the community is plagued with vandalism. The group mobilized the support of 175 people from alumni societies of four other local colleges. This cooperative effort resulted in a 60-foot by 90-foot fenced-in and lighted playground. This park serves a school of 600 to 800 students along with community children who participate in the school's summer program.

Contact: Tom Giffin, 610-396-6056, twg4@psu.edu

1997

WORTHINGTON SCRANTON ALUMNI SOCIETY

Paws for a Cause

The Worthington Scranton Alumni Society's Paws for a Cause is a year-long community outreach program that sends the local Nittany Lion mascot to visit groups at a wide variety of locations. The Nittany Lion has visited Easter Seals groups, the Boys and Girls Club, United Way, local elementary schools, nursing homes and United Cerebral Palsy events, to name a few. The Lion is always accompanied by a fellow alumnus or alumna (and in some cases the campus' Director of University Relations) who shares in his performance. Small Penn State tokens are distributed during each visit. The Lion provides his audience with the immeasurable gift of smiles and laughter.

Contact: Maria Russoniello, 570-963-2538, mjr1@psu.edu

Outstanding Successful Alumni Society Programs

2000

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Alumni-Student Teacher Network

The College of Education Alumni Society established this program in 1991, which serves nearly 250 alumni and students in hands-on direct service. Alumni provide students with programs and direct advice on the students' student teaching experience, their career search/job placement skills, and on a multitude of real-life situations and knowledge they will need as practicing teachers after graduation.

Contact: Jeff Deitrich, 814-863-2216, jsd102@psu.edu

1999

DUBOIS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Outstanding Alumni Award Program

The DuBois Alumni Society presents an annual Outstanding Alumni Award to deserving Penn State DuBois alumni who have made outstanding accomplishments in both the professional arena and as volunteers in their community. By recognizing the accomplishments of Penn State DuBois alumni, Penn State is further promoted to parents and prospective students who may be thinking about Penn State.

Contact: David Shaffer, 814-375-9381, dcs4@psu.edu

1998

DUBOIS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Career Day

The DuBois Alumni Society has been sponsoring a Career Day since 1980. This event began as an effort by DuBois campus staff and DuBois alumni to encourage local area high school students to attend college. Students from their twelve-county service area are now included in the event. They have reached as many as 800 students at a single Career Day event. The Alumni Society recruits presenters for a variety of college-oriented areas, and there are as many as four dozen career areas represented by regional professionals. The event also includes a luncheon that is used to gain positive feedback and helpful suggestions for improvement from the volunteers. The feedback is used in the planning of the next year's Career Day.

Contact: David Shaffer, 814-375-9381, dcs4@psu.edu

1997

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Communications Today and Tomorrow

The Communications Alumni Society has held its professional development and career networking seminar annually since 1990. This event has attracted more than 600 paid registrants, nearly 100 students and approximately 150 panelists and speakers from various industries. These seminars bring in new memberships for the Alumni Association, create networking opportunities for alumni, and provide a forum for professional development for both alumni and faculty.

Contact: Kristen Fortney, 814-865-3938, klk104@psu.edu

"PRIDE" AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

The PRIDE (**P**enn **S**tate **R**egional **I**nterests **D**eveloping **E**nthusiasm) Award was formed to recognize the collaborative efforts of two or more alumni affiliate groups. An award is presented by the Penn State Alumni Association to those groups that have distinguished themselves through exceptional program offerings. The award will recognize the collaborative efforts of affiliate groups that most effectively support the mission of the Penn State Alumni Association.

PRIDE Awards

2000

NAPLES AND FORT MYERS CHAPTERS

Ongoing Joint Activities

The Fort Myers and Naples Chapters have had many ongoing interactions and joint programming. Among some of the programming held in the last year were a holiday party, December boat outing, football games, bus trips, a spring banquet, an annual cruise, and a Singing Lions concert. These activities provide a broader range of alumni by bringing together several hundred Penn Staters of varied backgrounds and ages. Both chapters have encountered increased membership as a result of this joint programming.

Contacts: Naples Chapter-Lisa Schroeder, 941-261-8586; Fort Myers Chapter-Tom Lord, 941-543-9072, Tleonlord@aol.com

1999

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS ALUMNI SOCIETY AND LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

Joint Networking Event

The College of Communications Alumni Society and the Los Angeles Chapter held a grassroots outreach program on the set of the TV series JAG in Los Angeles. Alumni were invited to explore the entire set of the show, including a question and answer section hosted by the show's producer and Penn State alumnus Don Bellisario. Several alumni joined the LA Chapter, signed up to volunteer with the College, networked with fellow alumni, and were updated on Chapter and College events and news. The event brought together eighty-two Penn State alumni and two faculty members from the College of Communications, thereby connecting alumni to each other and to the University. As a result of this enjoyable weekend, the Los Angeles Chapter enrolled ten new members, eight attendees signed up to be mentors to Communications' students, and five alumni who had been "tagged" as lost were updated on the alumni database. The program solidified a new partnership between the alumni chapter and the alumni society.

Contact: Kristen Fortney, 814-865-3938, klk104@psu.edu

1998

BERKS ALUMNI SOCIETY, BERKS COUNTY CHAPTER, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTY CHAPTER

Move-In Day Picnic at Berks Campus

The alumni hosted, funded, and served approximately 500 freshman students and their families. The alumni purchased the food, cooked it, and served it themselves. The groups also provided information on campus life, the Alumni Association, and their own alumni groups. The event was

set up to provide students and families with a free, convenient meal during a hectic day and give them a feeling of belonging from their alumni. It was to make new students feel at home and, in the long run, make for better student retention by involving them with active alumni.

Contact: Thomas Giffin, 610-396-6056, twg4@psu.edu

NATIONAL SERVICE WEEK AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

As part of its annual recognition program, the Penn State Alumni Association will present awards to alumni groups that have distinguished themselves through exceptional National Service Week projects. The award will recognize the alumni group that most effectively supports the mission of their alumni group and the mission of the Penn State Alumni Association through National Service Week projects.

2000

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNI SOCIETY

Children's Book Drive

The society collects new and used children's (and some upper level) books and distributes them to needy schools. Some of the books even find their way to underprivileged schools overseas in Africa, the Philippines, and India. The committee stores thousands of books each year until they can be properly labeled, packaged, and shipped. In 1999, 4,293 books were distributed, and the society's three-year total of more than 11,000 books distributed is simply phenomenal.

Contact: Jeff Deitrich, 814-863-2216, jsd102@psu.edu

CHAPTER AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

Penn State Chapter Award for Student Support and Interaction

The following are some examples of activities that would fit the category of the Student Support and Interaction Chapter Award:

Student sendoffs ● Offer receptions ● Parents' night ● Scholarships ● Car/bus pools during holidays

2000

BEAVER VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

Western Pennsylvania Campus Interactions

The Beaver Valley Area Chapter teamed up with Penn State students from four Western Pennsylvania campuses (Beaver, Fayette, McKeesport, and New Kensington) to perform community service projects throughout the Beaver Valley area. The students get together once a year at a host campus for group activities, motivational speakers, and to perform community service. This year, Beaver hosted the project. Not only did the chapter provide ideas for service projects, but it also decided to join the students' efforts by making this a joint project and asking members to participate.

Contact: Richard Ranich, 724-775-2210, ranichs@usaor.net

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

"Get 'em and Grow 'em" Program

The Michigan Chapter's philosophy for student interaction is to "Get 'em and Grow 'em," that is, to get students interested in Penn State, help students at Penn State, and eventually get them to become active alumni chapter members. They have participated in projects such as area MathCounts competitions, Alumni Admissions efforts, Student Sendoffs, an email listserve with current area students, recognition programs, an annual scholarship for a local student, and the promotion of local internships. In addition, the chapter offers a free year's membership to any student from Michigan upon their graduation from Penn State.

Contact: Ron Waxmonsky, 810-575-8563, pennst8r@flash.net

1999

DELAWARE CHAPTER

Student Offer Reception

The Delaware Chapter hosted a Student Offer Reception, an annual program that serves to recognize area students who have an offer of admission to Penn State. This year's addition of the Singing Lions brought a new flair to this annual event and its most successful attendance to date with more than sixty people. The usual turnout for this event has been only half that. The mix of current students from the Singing Lions and alumni blended well with the future Penn Staters. The reception also gave parents a chance to voice their concerns and meet alumni who were once part of the Penn State experience themselves.

Contact: Michelle Fitzgerald, 302-529-0533, Michelle_Fitzgerald@dorland.com

METRO WASHINGTON CHAPTER

Newsletter Connections

The Metro Washington Chapter reaches out to local Penn State interns through their newsletter, connecting current students to alumni while creating a comfortable atmosphere for Penn Staters who are away from their Penn State home. Throughout the summer, interns and alumni play volleyball and softball games. Interns are also invited to the chapter's annual freshman sendoff to help answer questions and ease the transition for upcoming freshmen. The program lets Penn Staters, current and future, know that there are alumni everywhere who are willing to help a fellow Nittany Lion.

Contact: Wayne Hudders, 703-658-0934, psuwashdc@aol.com

1998

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Alumni Admissions Committee

The Southern Connecticut Chapter's Alumni Admissions Committee is a group of about fifteen members that come together to provide representation for Penn State at a dozen college information fairs. They share their time and experiences to recruit prospective Penn State freshmen. This chapter also organizes offer receptions, and fall and summer sendoff picnics and makes approximately 100 phone calls welcoming accepted students to Penn State.

Contact: Edward Mehalick, 203-975-0910, mehalice@jwseligman.com

ALLE-KISKI CHAPTER

Adopt-a-Freshman

The Alle-Kiski Chapter identified the names and addresses of the students who attended its early August freshman sendoff. While the students were at the function, the chapter took photos of each student individually with the Nittany Lion and the chapter's banner. When the film was developed in duplicate, each student was sent a short handwritten personal note from a chapter member along with his or her photo from the Freshman Sendoff, bumper stickers, and post-its. The students' parents also received a letter thanking them for attending the Freshman Sendoff and the same photo the students received. Parents and students alike appreciated the chapter's support and caring attitude. The group planned to send Penn State postcards in mid-November offering support again as final exams approached.

Contact: Pat Winter, 724-334-6057, pqw2@psu.edu

1997

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER

Freshman Sendoff

The Allegheny County Chapter invites entering freshmen and their families to what's known in the Pittsburgh area as a very friendly "Welcome to Penn State." The event features short presentations by current students, recent alumni, and current Penn State parents. Incoming students are also placed into smaller groups and ask questions of current students and alumni from the appropriate campuses. Each student receives an information packet about his or her specific campus as well as general Penn State information. Sweatshirts, notebooks, and other Penn State gifts are given away in a prize drawing, and everyone is served ice cream from a local Penn Stater's ice cream stand.

Contact: Eduardo DeGuzman, 412-687-2796, EDeGuzman@Pittsburgh.nfn.com

MAINE-NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

Freshman Sendoff Picnic

This chapter hosts an annual picnic where alumni, current students, entering freshmen, and their families spend a summer day learning about Penn State and its history. This picnic also provides students the opportunity to meet other incoming freshmen and many "Penn State Faithfuls." The day consists of a barbecue with entertainment by the Blue Band, a current student/alumni volleyball tournament, a hay ride, and a Penn State trivia contest.

Contact: MaryEllen Stella, 603-432-8015, mgmstella@mediaone.net

Penn State Chapter Award for Community Service

The following are some examples of activities that would fit into the category of the Community Service Chapter Award:

Food collection drive for a shelter ● Blood drive ● Landscaping at a home for the elderly ● Habitat for Humanity project ● Staffing phone banks during PBS fund drives

2000

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Big Ten SCORE (Success Comes Out of Reading Experiences)

Chicago area young alumni took part in the Big Ten SCORE Benefit to help reading programs in Chicago Public Schools. Along with other Big Ten alumni organizations, the group offered Penn State sports paraphernalia to be bid upon during a silent auction. This event provided an opportunity for young alumni in the Chicago area to connect and network with one another, as well as provided a meaningful contribution to the local schools—service not only for alumni but also for the community. The chapter's membership has grown considerably as a result of this programming.

Contact: Jerry Utt, 847-885-6760, jerryutt@avenew.com

1999

CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

General Volunteer Work

The Central Ohio Chapter was recognized for its volunteer work with a number of local and national organizations such as the Columbus Zoo, the Children's Miracle Network Telethons, and Urban Concern's "Christmas with Dignity." At the zoo, volunteers planted flowers at the zoo entrance to form an outline of the United States. They also took part in the "Adopt an Animal" program at the zoo, where they raised funds from their membership to adopt a mountain lion. The funds went toward the care of the lion. The chapter is recognized with a plaque at the lion exhibit. They have also answered phones for the Children's Miracle Network Telethon and been involved in gathering toys and clothing for needy kids for the Christmas holidays.

Contact: Frank Deutchki, 614-899-7526, psu76alum@aol.com

GEORGIA CHAPTER

Ongoing Volunteer Work

Through the Georgia Chapter's extensive community service activities, members have touched people of varied age groups and spread Penn State pride. They have volunteered with the Adopt-A-Highway Program, Toys for Tots at the Big Ten Holiday Party, volunteered at Georgia Games, the

state's Olympics contest, participated in a Dance Marathon fund-raising run in the Dash for Diabetes, and volunteered with the Grace Assisted Living Community, where they made monthly visits to the residents. In the wake of the devastating hurricanes that hit Atlanta last year, chapter members pulled together to assist those affected by the storm in conjunction with National Service Week.

Contact: Jill Woodward, 770-399-9433, jillwood@mindspring.com

1998

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER

"Willie's Kids" Hosted Disadvantaged Youth

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter hosted forty-five disadvantaged youth, ages 7–12, for a day at the San Francisco Zoo. The chapter, working with the San Francisco Enrichment Task Force and SF Mayor Willie Brown, developed and arranged the program to take these forty-five children from five local neighborhood centers. The chapter arranged the school bus transportation, zoo T-shirts, key-chain souvenirs, lunch, tours on the "zoo train," a ride on the carousel, and an overall wonderful bonding experience for member volunteers and children alike. This chapter has committed itself to developing community service activities to develop a more diverse chapter organization devoted to more than social gatherings.

Contact: Steven Stept, 510-336-2175, 103501.1004@compuserve.com

TAMPA CHAPTER

Tampa Habitat for Humanity

The Tampa Chapter had twelve members assist in building five new homes and fences for the Tampa Habitat for Humanity's Hope Park Multi-Housing Development. This program started in conjunction with National Service Week. The group cleaned out two storage trailers, built shelves, and loaded up supplies and tools so that future work would run efficiently. The group was invited to participate in "Blitz '97" with a Florida state representative, a county official, and media coverage. This involvement and subsequent media coverage increased area awareness of Penn State's goals, character, and dedication, not to mention an increase in chapter membership due to local advertisement of events.

Contact: Jim Keough, 813-269-0462, keough@worldnet.att.net

1997

BEAVER VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

The Beaver Valley Area Chapter has participated in a gift drive for local children who would not otherwise receive a Christmas present during the holiday season. In cooperation with the Beaver County Children and Youth Services Agency, they coordinated a list of each child's name, gift request, and suggestions from local caseworkers. The gifts not only included toys but clothing as well. The chapter contributed gifts in their first year for twenty-five children, building to the ninety-four children they served in 1996. Their support and spirit keeps growing every year.

Contact: Richard Ranich, 724-775-2210, ranichs@usaor.net

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Quarterly Projects

Each quarter the Chicago Chapter offers a different service project, which varies in type and location. In January at its Bowl Game parties members have a "drive" of some sort. In 1997 they held a food drive that benefited "Fish," which provides food to the people of DuPage County. The next quarter found them answering phones for a local public television station for their spring

membership drive. During Penn State's National Service Week, they washed windows at the Countryside Association, a work center for the mentally challenged. Finally, each October the group has a team walk in the American Heart Association Heart Walk to raise funds for heart and stroke research.

Contact: Jerry Utt, 847-882-2306, JerryUtt@avenew.com

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Sharing with a local home for Teenage Boys

The Southern Connecticut Chapter shares some holiday traditions and festivities with a local home of teenage boys who are not able to live at home with their families. The chapter offers these boys a chance to share in activities such as pumpkin carving or decorating Easter eggs. In the process the groups bond. They have witnessed some of these hostile youths go from insecure to showing pride in their activities or projects. The chapter volunteers also have the opportunity to discuss real life issues with the boys such as education, relationships, and careers and to act as role models.

Contact: Edward Mehalick, 203-975-0910, mehalice@jwseligman.com

Penn State Chapter Award for Personal & Professional Development

The following are some examples of activities that would fit into the category of the Personal and Professional Development Chapter Award:

Business card exchange ● Mentoring programs ● Job fairs ● Faculty speaker ● Garden walks ● Seminars

2000

METRO WASHINGTON CHAPTER

Alumni Softball Team

The Metro Washington Alumni Softball team and the DC area collegiate alumni softball league joined forces this past year. Participation instills a strong sense of Penn State pride including those who had lost touch with the University. The team brings together alumni of all ages from aspiring Penn Staters to those aged 40+. The team began four years ago with 15 people who often had trouble getting enough players to field a team. Under new leadership, it has grown into a formal 18-team league with this season's roster reaching over 50 people and 25-30 players showing up for games on the White House ellipse. Membership in the chapter has grown considerably since the league's inception.

Contact: Wayne Hudders, 202-298-8900, Psuwashdc@aol.com

1998

LANCASTER COUNTY CHAPTER

Membership Directory

Each year the Lancaster County Chapter publishes and distributes a membership directory that includes detailed information about members and their businesses. The directory keeps the Lancaster County alumni well-informed about each other and their businesses. The directory also promotes networking and communication among the alumni and the patronization of their businesses. This is a service that the chapter provides to its members.

Contact: Dan Doremus, 717-627-3772, ddoremus@warwick.k12.pa.us

Penn State Chapter Award for Membership

The following are some examples of activities that would fit into the category of the Membership Chapter Award:

Christmas parties ● Football TV parties ● Ski and golf outings ● Family picnics ● Garden parties

2000

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

Membership Communication Program

The Potomac Valley Chapter implemented this program in May 1999. The center of the program is their Web site, which is supported by email, the chapter hotline, paper mailings, and phone calls to those without email. Another key element is their expanded newsletter, including pictures from all chapter activities, recaps from past events, and a pre-established schedule of events. In addition, they have begun keeping in constant contact with the parents of current Penn Staters, showing them how the Alumni Association can work for them and what Penn State can do for the community and their children. Enhanced communication with chapter members and local alumni has increased membership and improved participation in chapter events.

Contact: Kimberley Lizik, 301-548-2624, psupotomacval@mindspring.com

FORT MYERS CHAPTER

Spring Banquet:

This banquet, with a speaker from Penn State, affords local Penn Staters an opportunity to hear first hand about some of the changes taking place at the University. From the interest generated during exchanges with the speaker, this event reconnects southwestern Florida alumni with the University, forming new friendships and networking relationships among our retired and younger working Penn Staters. This program has helped the chapter attract recent graduates, almost doubling the chapter's membership. The banquet itself received over 70% participation by the chapter membership, almost a 50% increase over the previous year.

Contact: Tom Lord, 941-543-9072, Tleonlord@aol.com

1999

BEAVER VALLEY AREA CHAPTER

Scholarship-Membership Drive

The Penn State Beaver Valley Area Chapter had a low record of paid memberships for several years despite the many new alumni in its service territory. In a one-year period, the memberships doubled, going from forty-five to ninety. To accomplish this, the chapter sent out two different solicitations. The chapter set out to target new groups, asking them only to join or renew their memberships and to consider making a donation to their scholarship fund. The response was immediate. The chapter received \$1,000 in direct scholarship donations by August 1, 1998.

Contact: Richard Ranich, 724-775-2210, ranichs@usaor.net

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Programming Drive

The North Texas Chapter increased its membership from 100 members in 1990 to its current status of 475 and growing. The secret to their success may be the broad range of activities and

programs that they sponsor every month. Some activities and programs include a Penn State Bowl game TV party, a bowling outing, a spring social, a golf outing, a food drive, and college recruiting fairs. These activities touch the lives of past, present, and future Penn Staters.

Contact: Craig Micklow, 817-481-6630, psuclub@wtd.net

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER

Web Site Drive

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter boasts a new chapter Web site (www.psu-sfbay.org) that connects Bay Area alumni with local and national Penn State news, sports, and event information. The site also serves as a membership tool by providing easy access to alumni who may have recently moved into the area and are searching for other Penn Staters. This new resource enables alumni to connect to one another and meet fellow alumni in the San Francisco Bay area as well as alumni worldwide who may have visited the site while searching the Web. The site has been used to increase attendance at chapter events and it has fostered career networking among alumni.

Contact: Steven Stept, 510-336-2175, 103501.1004@compuserve.com

1998

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER

Business Pride Program

The Penn State Allegheny County Chapter has set up a member incentive program with over fifteen local businesses whereby chapter members receive discounted prices when they present their membership card. Most of these restaurants, video stores, record stores, business service providers, and dry cleaners are owned or managed by Penn Staters. All of these businesses have been supportive of the chapter's events. Even though this program does not generate a revenue for the chapter, it provides area alumni with incentive to be a part of their local chapter. The program both benefits the Allegheny Chapter's members and local businesses that receive free publicity from this program.

Contact: Eduardo DeGuzman, 412-687-2796, EDeGuzman@Pittsburgh.nefn.com

GEORGIA CHAPTER

Activities and Membership

The Penn State Georgia Chapter promotes chapter membership by actively seeking out new members at its regular functions and by establishing new functions specifically designed to attract new members. Functions include events such as a Big Ten Picnic, a Big Ten Holiday Party, a football kickoff party, and a spring banquet, which includes a speaker from the University. Its seasonal activities include football and basketball game day gatherings, trips to watch basketball games in the southeast, raffles of Penn State items at games, and support of the Atlanta professional sports teams. This group has an e-mail distribution list and a new Web page (www.psugeorgia.org) that provides increased communications to area alumni. They also have a business card listing called "Nittany Line" with a recording of all upcoming events, quarterly newsletters, and postcard mailings for future events.

Contact: Jill Woodward, 770-399-9433, jillwood@mindspring.com

1997

TRIANGLE - NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Membership Campaign

To reach a new standard, the chapter board conducted a well-orchestrated campaign that included several renewal letters to members and appeals to alumni who had allowed their memberships to lapse. In soliciting memberships, chapter leaders also encouraged alumni to support the Triangle Chapter Endowed Scholarship Fund and to take an active role in leading the organization.

Contact: Brian Hoegg, 919-468-1750, dhoegg@mindspring.com

AFFILIATE PROGRAM GROUP (APG) AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

As part of its annual recognition program, the Penn State Alumni Association will present awards to alumni affiliate program groups that have distinguished themselves through exceptional alumni program offerings. The award will recognize APGs that most effectively support the mission of their alumni society and the mission of the Penn State Alumni Association.

2000

FOOD INDUSTRY GROUP

Food Industry Weekend

For a number of years the Food Industry Group, along with the Food Science Department, has hosted the Food Industry Weekend. Students from Food Science host a conference and put on a tailgate at which attendees socialize, network, and learn with the Department staff, students, and alumni. This year this connection even included the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. The APG works closely with the Department and College in developing this programming which supports the APG in its mission and membership. The activities have brought new awareness to the APG, the Alumni Association, the Department of Food Sciences, and non-Penn State industry leaders.

Contact: Jillian Stevenson, 814-863-7278, jxh41@psu.edu

1999

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT SOCIETY (PSHRS)

50th Anniversary Event

The Penn State Hotel and Restaurant Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary this past November at a gala attended by approximately 400 guests. Students, alumni, and faculty came away from the event energized by the bonds and the synergy that exist among generations of hospitality leaders. It was a great opportunity for HRIM alumni to enhance the reputations of the program, the College, and the University. At the event, a lifetime hospitality achievement award was presented, and PSHRS Hospitality Executives of the Year were inducted into the new Penn State Hospitality Hall of Fame.

Contact: Abby Diehl, 814-863-2207, agc105@psu.edu

1998

SOCIETY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (SPSEE)

Departmental Support and Programming

The SPSEE established a Graduate Fellowship Endowment, assisted the department head in recruiting approximately 75% of the incoming graduate student body, assisted the co-op director in recruiting thirteen new industry positions for graduate students, planned the Electrical Engineering Department Centennial celebration, assisted with the Engineering Open House, established a home page (www.engr.psu.edu/spsee) for their APG, assisted the Engineering Society in establishing APGs in other departments, established a permanent "history" display, and grew APG membership to a now strong 200!

Contact: Mark Wharton, 814-234-2068

1997

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS GRADUATE ALUMNI, HARRISBURG

Big Event

The alumni group presented a "big event" for students, alumni, and the public. The event consisted of a roundtable of academic and business experts and specialists speaking to an audience on specific topics of interest. This year's topic was "International Business: Challenges and Implication." Business classes, alumni, and local business people participated.

Contact: Marco Colosi, 717-892-0338, ingemar1@aol.com

ALUMNI INTEREST GROUP (AIG) AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

As part of its annual recognition program, the Penn State Alumni Association will present awards to alumni interest groups that have distinguished themselves through exceptional alumni program offerings. The award will recognize the AIG that most effectively supports the mission of their alumni group and the mission of the Penn State Alumni Association.

2000

LION'S PAW ALUMNI INTEREST GROUP

90th Anniversary Celebration Reunion Weekend

Held this past April at University Park, the reunion consisted of optional class reunions, hikes up Mt. Nittany, student-led campus tours, docent-led tours of Palmer Museum of Art, a golf tournament, a dinner-dance with Penn State officials, and a recognition ceremony. Over 350 alumni and guests attended the weekend's activities, 57 class chairs were recruited to organize each graduating class since 1935, 15 classes had reunion events, visibility was increased in the Penn State community, over \$7,500 was raised for operations of the AIG, and over \$1,500 was donated to support the AIG's Endowment Fund.

Contact: Ben Bronstein, 814-238-6158

1999

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK OF NEW YORK

Networking and Developmental Programs

This AIG includes professional women who are immersed in their careers, their families, and other responsibilities and are eager to share their professional and personal experiences. The group provides networking and developmental programs. Some of its programs include a mid-summer networking get-together, a fall dinner, holiday wine tasting, theatre evening, and an issues roundtable seminar. Membership has grown each year and comprises women who have not previously been involved with Penn State alumni activities. For many, this innovative group has heightened or renewed their interest in the University.

Contact: Susan Schenkel-Savitt, 212-294-4772, ssavitt@winston.com

1998

LION AMBASSADOR

New Programming

During this year, the Lion Ambassador Alumni Interest Group implemented three new programs, in addition to its already established programs. Activities included endowing a \$15,000 scholarship, implementing a mentoring program consisting of forty-five student-alumni pairs, and establishing the group's own awards program. Other ongoing activities of this AIG include social events, reunions, football tailgates, and legislative advocacy efforts.

Contact: Joanne Pachkowski, 215-235-1057, pachkows@dolphin.upenn.edu

1997

GREEK

Greek Leadership Conference

The Greek Alumni Interest Group was able to co-sponsor the 1997 Greek Leadership Conference on January 18. The conference was titled "Facing the Future as One" and included topics on alcohol awareness, advising, academic success, career development, time and stress management, risk management, civic responsibility, and strengthening relations with alumni. The conference brought together for the first time alumni, faculty, University administrators, and more than 200 students involved in the Greek system.

Contact: David Morrow, 814-237-5858

APPROVED SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT PROGRAMS

In the past, the Alumni Association has set aside a sum of money for special projects of the constituent societies. Beginning July 1, 1999, all alumni organizations will be eligible to apply for these funds, including chapters, societies, Alumni Interest Groups (AIGs), and Affiliate Program Groups (APGs). Priority will be given to projects that are innovative, promote increased membership in the Alumni Association, connect alumni to the University and to each other, foster future alumni involvement, provide valued services to the alumni group's membership, support the University's mission of teaching, research, and service, and support the alumni group's strategic plan.

Grant Winners

1999

MONT ALTO ALUMNI SOCIETY

Bi-annual Alumni Speaker Series

A grant for \$800 was approved to fund the development and implementation of a new bi-annual alumni speaker series at the Penn State Mont Alto campus. The program featured alumni who spoke in the fall and spring semesters on campus. Due to the campus' high enrollment in health-related fields, the society chose Dr. Wanda Jones, an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., as one of their first speakers. Student turnout was remarkable. This program not only provided an opportunity for students to meet alumni, it connected them with professionals in their fields of study.

Contact: Chris Rotz, 717-749-6105, car6@psu.edu

HARRISBURG ALUMNI SOCIETY

Mentor Program

A grant for \$1,500 was provided to develop and publish a brochure to help rejuvenate the Harrisburg Alumni Society mentor program. In recent years, lack of student participation and lack of consistent staff support had troubled the program. With new leadership, the society re-evaluated the mentor program and handed down recommendations for some revisions. The program began in August of 1998 and has met with tremendous success. All Penn State Harrisburg alumni have been encouraged to volunteer their time and skills as a mentor, and they continue to do just that.

Contact: Alayne Leskawa, 717-948-6106, avl1@psu.edu

FAYETTE ALUMNI SOCIETY

Award Display

A matching grant of \$300 was provided to the society to complete a project targeted at showing pride in the campus. The awards display will be located in a prominent location on campus so that students, alumni, and the entire campus community can have exposure to the many outstanding accomplishments of students and alumni.

Contact: Janet Gibson, 724-430-4190, jlg3@psu.edu

GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI SOCIETY

Professional Development Workshop Series

A grant was provided to the Graduate School Alumni Society to help support a new professional development workshop series. A committee of the society's board shaped the program from

diverse academic units for a diverse graduate student audience, and involved alumni from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. This innovative, interdisciplinary approach to program planning not only promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences, but plants the seeds for graduate alumni loyalty and commitment to share their time and talents.

Contact: Marilyn Engle, 814-863-8117, mx7@psu.edu

1998

BERKS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Penn State Coffee Breaks

A grant for \$525 was approved to help support the development of a Penn State Coffee Breaks Program with five large area employers of Penn State graduates. The campus hosted a coffee break for the Penn State alumni who worked at a particular company. These breaks provided an opportunity for people working at the same location to discover that other co-workers also had a tie to Penn State Berks and to help foster relationship-building among them. The hope was that after the sponsored coffee break the Penn Staters would continue to meet occasionally.

Contact: Thomas Giffin, 610-396-6056, twg4@psu.edu

COLLEGE OF EARTH AND MINERAL SCIENCES ALUMNI SOCIETY

Penn State Hazleton Campus Alumni Seminar

A grant for \$350 was approved to help cover costs of the Penn State Hazleton Campus Alumni Seminar. This seminar was provided to incoming students interested in Earth and Mineral Science majors at Penn State Hazleton. Prior to the seminar, the committee chair hosted a lunch for Hazleton-area alumni who were interested in helping advise students and representing the alumni force from the College. These alumni then participated in the event with students and faculty from the Hazleton campus.

Contact: Colleen Swetland, 814-863-4667, clw2@emsadm.psu.edu

MONT ALTO ALUMNI SOCIETY

Mont Alto Student Reception

A grant for \$1,600 was approved to help support the costs of a graduating senior reception at University Park for Penn State Mont Alto students. Students who had attended Penn State Mont Alto campus and were graduating in May 1998 were invited to attend a reception at the Nittany Lion Inn on the University Park campus. The president of the Alumni Society and the CEO of the campus made remarks to the new graduates encouraging their continued participation with the Penn State Mont Alto campus as they became alumni.

Contact: Chris Rotz, 717-749-6105, car6@psu.edu

FAYETTE ALUMNI SOCIETY

Spring Fling 1998

A grant for \$500 was approved for support of the Spring Fling that took place at the Penn State Fayette campus in conjunction with student government and various other campus offices. The event featured a half-day celebration of the end of classes, falling on the day before classes officially ended at the campus. It was designed to involve all constituents of the campus community in a fun, relaxing activity in an outdoor setting and included games, recreation, food, and music. In addition, alumni were on hand at an information booth to pass out membership applications and answer any questions students might have about the society's role at the campus.

Contact: Janet Gibson, 724-430-4190, jlg3@psu.edu

1997

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SMEAL COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
ALUMNI SOCIETIES

Business/Communications Alumni Seminar Conference

A grant for \$2,000 (\$1,000 to each college) was approved to help support the joint society efforts of the Smeal College of Business Administration and the College of Communications. The groups planned a conference to take place in the summer of 1997 in Washington, D.C. In particular, this program showed a collaborative effort in a very natural way between two groups with similar interests.

Contact: Renee Marks, 814-865-7831, ram145@psu.edu

MONT ALTO ALUMNI SOCIETY

Society Kickoff Celebration Weekend

A grant for \$2,500 was approved to help promote and plan the kickoff of the Penn State Mont Alto Alumni Society. The kickoff included the first official society board meeting, a kickoff all-alumni picnic, and the signing up of more than fifty alumni for future alumni involvement.

Contact: Chris Rotz, 717-749-6105, car6@psu.edu

1996

BERKS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Service Area Survey

A grant for \$500 was approved to fund the development and mailing of a survey to Penn State Alumni Association members in the Berks Campus service area. The results showed that 40% were interested in mentoring current students. As a result of this survey, the campus started a mentoring program from a base of 130 alumni and sixty students who had declared majors.

Contact: Thomas Giffin, 610-396-6056, twg4@psu.edu

WORTHINGTON SCRANTON ALUMNI SOCIETY

Paws for a Cause

A grant for \$1,000 was approved to support the new Paws for a Cause community outreach program of the Penn State Worthington Scranton campus society. The program engages alumni and select students to promote goodwill to community children, the elderly, the impoverished, and the disabled. Festivities included a local version of the Nittany Lion, song-singing, and fun for all.

Contact: Maria Russoniello, 570-963-2538, mjr1@psu.edu