

Penn State Alumni Association

GREATER JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER NEWS

Message from the President:

Weather/whether or not ... we are still Penn State! is our unofficial tongue-in-cheek theme for our Spring Banquet/General Meeting, which will be held April 3, 2004 at The Hilltop, Orange Park. You can interpret this theme in several ways. For example, no matter what the football team does, we still love them and are still loyal Penn Staters (thank you Lady Lions basketball for taking up a lot of the slack)! Alternately, you can perhaps interpret this as no matter what the weather and climate, we still bleed blue and white.

We can't do too much about win and loss records. We can't do much about the weather either, but we try to accept and understand it. To aid our understanding, Drew Jackson, a Penn State alumnus, Jacksonville Chapter member, and a meteorologist for Channel 4 Eyewitness News will be our banquet's featured speaker. Drew will talk about his experiences in weather forecasting, attempt to convince us that we should not blame the bearer (him) of bad news (bad weather), and help us understand why it happens. As Drew says, "Think about it; how many times have you complimented the weather forecaster for all of the nice and sunny days we enjoy in North Florida? So why blame us for the nasty weather?" We do live in a football crazy area and we closely follow our Nittany Lion football team. Unfortunately, we do not get much exposure to other Penn State sports other than a rare girl's basketball, volleyball or gymnastic team visit to Gainesville. Drew attended Penn State on a diving scholarship and will also talk about his experiences in a sport that doesn't get the attention other sports do. Why not join your fellow alums at the Spring Banquet and help give Drew a big welcome.

March 8 through 12 is spring break for Penn State students. Not all students head for the beaches; many of them volunteer their time off to help others in need. Fortunately, for the third year in a row, we had an opportunity to meet and work with a group of Penn State students who volunteered their time and talent to HabiJax and other area charities. Chapter members joined the students on the job site during the latter part of the week and, treated them to lunch on a designated "Penn State/HabiJax Day". By the way, during a mass orientation meeting last year, HabiJax personnel singled out and complimented Penn State and its alumni for being the only university/college-affiliated group who had an organized approach to meeting and working with student volunteers.

A number of current officers and chairpersons have served for up to three years and are looking towards "retirement" on June 30, 2004, when their terms of office expire. Filling vacancies in a timely manner is critical to our Chapter's well being. To seek out candidates, Chapter member Howard Weisz has agreed to chair a Search Committee.



PRESIDENT

Bill Dusack

223-5810

billdu@cxp.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Josiah Pritchard

646-3357

Pritchard.Josiah@mayo.edu

SECRETARY

Danielle Howard

928-3668

danielle@envisionnet.net

TREASURER

Bob Streightiff

223-3383

rstr8iff@msn.com

Penn State Alumni Association
Greater Jacksonville Chapter
c/o Danielle Howard
12173 Ripken Circle North
Jacksonville, FL 32224

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

If Howard calls upon you to either help in the search for candidates or to consider taking on a Chapter responsibility, please listen to what he has to say.

Remember to keep checking your e-mail and our website, www.psujax.com, on a regular basis for information about Chapter social and volunteer activities.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our events, especially the April 3rd Spring Banquet/General Meeting.

We are ... Penn State!

Bill Dusack

President 🐾

Are you receiving e-mail updates?

If not, send your current e-mail address to secretary@psujax.com and we will add you to our e-mail distribution list.



This is a great way to stay current on Chapter events and save the Chapter excess postage!

Meet Drew Jackson ... Spring Banquet Featured Speaker



We could say that our theme for our April 3rd banquet is “Weather/whether or not... we are still Penn State!” With this potential theme in mind, meet Drew Jackson, our featured speaker for the banquet. Drew is a Jacksonville Chapter member and a meteorologist for WJXT Channel 4 Eyewitness News. You can see Drew each weekend, broadcasting the weather on **The Morning Show**, and doubling as a meteorologist and news anchor each Saturday and Sunday evening at 10:00 p.m. Drew also periodically writes weather forecasts for the Florida Times Union newspaper.

Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Drew began his new life as a Nittany Lion in 1994. As one of the nation’s top springboard divers,

Drew was actively recruited out of high school to join Penn State’s swimming and diving team as a diver on scholarship. After a recruiting visit to State College, Drew committed to Penn State, turning down acceptance and scholarship offers from Stanford, Harvard, Northwestern, Auburn and LSU.

As a Nittany Lion athlete, Drew was one the Big Ten’s top divers, and is the only diver in Penn State history to represent the university at the national NCAA Championships all four years of his collegiate career. Scholastically, Drew earned Academic All-American honors for his performance in the classroom, and was an active member of the university’s Student-Athlete Advisory Board, where he worked closely with administration officials in addressing issues affecting Penn State’s student athletes.

While at Penn State, Drew discovered his enthusiasm for weather forecasting. After receiving his B.S. in meteorology in 1998, Drew (like many of us) felt that he wasn’t quite ready to leave Happy Valley, so he returned to Penn State later that year as a graduate student. While pursuing his M.S. degree, he worked extensively with Penn State’s Weather Communications Group, helping to create the daily weather page published in **The New York Times**

Drew received his M.S. in meteorology in 2000, and shortly thereafter, he moved back to the Northwest to work as a broadcast meteorologist in eastern Washington. He then relocated to Jacksonville (across the country again!) in December 2002.

During his midweek days off and when he isn’t filling-in for other Channel 4 meteorologists, Drew maintains his diving involvement by co-coaching the University of North Florida diving team.

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear Drew tell about his experiences in the unpredictable world of meteorology and as a diver at Penn State. So join us on April 3rd, meet and hear Drew, and enjoy a delicious meal and great socializing.

Weather/whether or not ... we are still PENN STATE! 🐾

Monthly Luncheon

THIRD Friday

of each month at noon at the Marriott Hotel, 4670 Salisbury Road, (Southpoint area). Call Rich Holtz at 730-9906 or email him at RichardSHoltz@yahoo.com to let him know you're coming. 🐾



ROARing Into Spring is a Hit!

We have been having an absolutely fabulous time with our ROARing into Spring dinners! We had 22 people join us at Ruth's Chris in January, and 23 at the Olive Garden a few weeks ago. If you've attended, thank you for your support, and if you haven't, you don't know what you're missing!

Our next dinner (OK, actually it's lunch!) is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th. We will meet at Player's Grille on Hendricks to celebrate the new football season and (hopefully) watch the Blue/White game (we were successful in getting live TV feed from the University last year). The tentative kickoff time is currently scheduled for 1:00 pm.

We'll wrap up ROARing into Spring on Saturday, May 15th at Roy's in Jacksonville Beach (7:00 pm, reservations are required). Roy's specializes in Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine fine dining combining the fresh ingredients and bold flavors of the Asian Pacific Rim with the sauces and textures of European cooking, while focusing on fresh local seafood. Roy's offers a Prix Fixe Menu featuring three mouthwatering courses (appetizer sampler, choice of meat or fish entree, and a melting hot chocolate souffle) for \$30. Please note that Roy's also offers complimentary valet parking for its guests. For more information, feel free to check out www.roysrestaurant.com.

Email reminders will be sent out before each of these events (so if we don't have your current email address, please send it to secretary@psujax.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Jodie Davis, Social Chair, at garyandjodie@comcast.net or 762-9173.

Join us for the rest of the ROAR! We look forward to seeing everyone there! 🐾



CORRECTION! In the last newsletter, we incorrectly identified local chapter member and poet, CHARLES FELDSTEIN. We apologize for the oversight.

KATIE CLIFFORD, daughter of KENT AND KATHY CLIFFORD, graduated from Stanton College Preparatory School in May 2003 and started her studies in Communication in June 2003 at Penn State.

ELIZABETH YANDA, daughter of MARY YANDA ('79, '82) competed in the Florida AAU State Gymnastics Championships on December 14th. She placed 3rd in floor exercise with an 8.8, 4th on vault with a 9.2, and 2nd on bars with an 8.8. Congratulations, Elizabeth. Her team at United Gymnastics placed 5th overall. Your parents are PENN STATE PROUD!!

If you have any items that you would like included in the Penn State Proud section (anniversaries, graduations, weddings, births, etc.) of the Greater Jacksonville Chapter News please e-mail it to Danielle Howard at danielle@envisionnet.net, fax it to her attention at 223-1361, or mail it to 12173 Ripken Circle North, Jacksonville, FL 32224. 🐾

New Chapter By-Laws

The By-Laws for the Greater Jacksonville Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association were recently evaluated and rewritten to fit the current structure and purpose of our Chapter. The By-Laws have been ratified by the current board and submitted to the University, but we wanted to give our members a chance to review them and make comments (both positive and negative).

If you are interested in reviewing the By-Laws, please go to www.psujax.com, click on the "Officers" button on the left-hand navigation bar, then click on the "Chapter By-Laws" button. If you need a paper copy of the By-Laws sent to you, please contact our Secretary, Danielle Howard, at secretary@psujax.com or 928-3668 and she will be happy to send you one.

Please direct any comments on the By-Laws to Bill Dusack, President, at billdu@cxp.com or 223-5810. 🐾



Contemplating Becoming a Life Member?

The Penn State Alumni Association is introducing a new life member recruiting program for Penn State Affiliate Groups. Under the new program, if a member of the Greater Jacksonville Chapter signs on as a life member, our group will be awarded \$50.

If you would like to become a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association, contact Bill Dusack, President, at 223-5810 for an application or write our chapter's unique three-digit code (CAT) on the application mailed from the University.

We look forward to growing our base of committed members and receiving additional chapter funding! It's a win/win situation! 🐾

PennState

Greater Jacksonville Chapter Calendar of Events



- MARCH 19 Monthly Luncheon at
Marriott Hotel, Salisbury Road, Noon
RSVP to Rich Holtz at 730-9906
- APRIL 3 Spring Banquet/Membership Meeting
The Hilltop, Orange Park, 6:00 pm
Please RSVP by March 25th!
- APRIL 16 Monthly Luncheon at
Marriott Hotel, Salisbury Road
RSVP to Rich Holtz at 730-9906
- APRIL 24 ROAR into Spring at
Players Grille, Hendricks Ave., 1:00 pm
for the Penn State Blue/White Game
RSVP to Jodie Davis at 683-6844
- MAY 15 ROAR into Spring at
Roy's, Jacksonville Beach, 7:00 pm
RSVP to Jodie Davis at 683-6844
- MAY 21 Monthly Luncheon at
Marriott Hotel, Salisbury Road
RSVP to Rich Holtz at 730-9906
- JULY 1 Chapter Dues are Due!
Contact Bob Streightiff at 223-3383 if
you have questions about your dues



**The Penn State Alumni Association
Jacksonville Florida Chapter
Spring Banquet**

Join your fellow alums at The Hilltop, a beautiful Victorian-style mansion, nestled among towering oak trees, offering an unforgettable experience in a resplendent ambiance of antique furniture and style, blending old English elegance and Southern influences in complete harmony, for our annual Spring Banquet and General Membership Meeting. As always, business casual blue and white apparel is always acceptable at all chapter events!

WHO: All Greater Jacksonville Chapter Members and Friends of Penn State
WHEN: Saturday, April 3, 2004
 6:00 PM - Cocktail Hour (cash bar)
 7:00 PM - Dinner
 8:30 PM - General Membership Meeting with Featured Speaker, Drew Jackson
WHERE: The Hilltop, 2030 Wells Road, Orange Park, FL 32073
COST: \$30.00 per person*, includes dinner, tax and gratuity.
 A cash bar will be available.
RSVP: Reservations required by March 25, 2004

<u>The Garden Buffet</u>	
Tomato & Basil Bruschetta	Chilled Vegetables & Dip
Caesar Salad	Garden Salad
Roast Beef Steamship Sliced with Mushroom Bordelaise Sauce	Fettuccini Alfredo with Grilled Chicken Sliced Virginia Ham with Raison Sauce
Steamed and Lightly Seasoned Vegetable Medley	Roasted Bliss Potatoes
Coffee and Tea	Strawberry Cloud Cake
	Red Velvet Cake

**Spring Banquet Reservation Form
Reservation Deadline - March 25, 2004**

attending _____ x \$30.00 per person* = \$ _____

*children 6 years old and under eat FREE

Name (s) _____

Are any children 6 or under attending? If so, how many _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Would you like to be added to our e-mail distribution list? _____ YES! _____ No thank you!

Please make the check for the Spring Banquet payable to Penn State Alumni Club of Greater Jacksonville and mail by March 25, 2004 to:

Bob Streightiff, Treasurer, 13800 Deer Chase Place, Jacksonville, FL 32224

If you have any questions, please contact Jodie Davis, Social Chair, at garyandjodie@comcast.net or 762-9173.

Directions to The Hilltop

- From Jacksonville, take I-295 North across the Buckman Bridge to Exit 12 (Orange Park).
- At Exit 12, take the ramp left (south-west) onto State Route 21 Blanding Blvd.
- Continue on Route 21 Blanding Blvd approx 0.7 miles to the traffic light at Blanding Blvd and Wells Rd. (The Orange Park Mall is to the left.)
- Turn right onto Wells Rd for approx 0.4 miles.
- After the divided road portion turn left.
- The Hilltop entrance and parking lot is on the right.





(Membership current through June 30, 2005)

Yes! Please sign me up for membership in the Penn State Alumni Association, Greater Jacksonville, Florida Chapter. Membership is not restricted to Penn State graduates and Alumni Association members. To join, all you have to do is love Penn State!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP (\$10 PER YEAR)

Member Name _____

Are you a (choose one):

Alumni Association Status (choose one):

- Alumni of Penn State
- If Yes, Year of Graduation _____
- Friend of Penn State
- Parent of Current Penn State Student

- Life Member
- Annual Member
- Not a Member

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$15 PER YEAR)

Member Name _____

Are you a (choose one):

Alumni Association Status (choose one):

- Alumni of Penn State
- If Yes, Year of Graduation _____
- Friend of Penn State
- Parent of Current Penn State Student

- Life Member
- Annual Member
- Not a Member

Spouse Name _____

Are you a (choose one):

Alumni Association Status (choose one):

- Alumni of Penn State
- If Yes, Year of Graduation _____
- Friend of Penn State
- Parent of Current Penn State Student

- Life Member
- Annual Member
- Not a Member

Please list names of other family members you want included in membership _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Make checks payable to **Penn State Alumni Club of Greater Jacksonville** and mail to:

Bob Streightiff, Treasurer
13800 Deer Chase Place
Jacksonville, FL 32224

If you have any questions regarding your annual dues please contact Bob Streightiff at 223-3383.

2004-2005 ANNUAL DUES FORM

