



The Garden State Roar

SPRING 2010

Compiled by Tori DiTaranto

The mission of the Northern NJ Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association is to act as a resource for all University alumni, friends, and family. Every fundraiser, event, and gathering is organized by Penn State Alums for the benefit and enjoyment of Penn State Alumni for the purpose of fostering relations between the Northern NJ Alumni and their Alma Mater. (Approved on 8/27/2006 by the Executive Board).

Northern New Jersey Chapter



SECOND ANNUAL HOPE GALA

More than 250 members of the Penn State community gathered on January 22nd at the landmark venue Capitale in New York City, for the second annual Hope Gala, to benefit THON and the Four Diamonds Fund. The fundraiser, led by Overall Chairperson Meghan Day (class of 2003) and dozens of volunteers, featured a raffle and a silent auction that featured unique items like

the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and a Joe Paterno signed football. Over \$20,000 was raised this year.

The night kicked-off with a performance by the Blue Band, who made a special trip to the Big Apple just for the event. Hosted by Penn State football legend **LaVar Arrington**, the Hope Gala also featured several moving speeches by families who have been touched by the Four Diamonds Fund the most. Connie and Hank Angus, spoke of how their son's struggle with leukemia inspired them to start THON Express, a 135-mile relay run between Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital and the floor of THON. The Fazekas family shared stories about their beautiful daughter, Ashley, who overcame her battle with cancer and is now a happy and healthy child. They each bravely shared their own reflections on courage, wisdom, honesty and strength, and left the audience in tears.

The evening ended with dancing, courtesy of Sound Choice DJs, and then the crowd headed to 49 Grove, for an after party, which raised additional funds for the cause.



In the Spotlight:

Congratulations to **Jamie Colaneri**, who received **Volunteer of the Year Award**! Jamie, also Vice President of the Northern NJ Chapter, has gone above and beyond in her duties. Jamie has been a major contributor, shaping our chapter into what it is today. One member said, "She is the Galen Hall of our chapter, running the show behind the scenes."



On February 16th, our chapter combined forces with the Penn State Smeal College of Business's Executive MBA program to bring a value-added event to the Northern New Jersey area. Nat Stoddard, President & CEO of Crenshaw & Associates was our keynote speaker, and covered how to **Build your Personal Brand**, making you more marketable to future job and business opportunities. In addition to Mr. Stoddard's presentation, there was also ample time allowed for the 50+ members in attendance to network with each other, developing synergies amongst them. A few employers were even on hand with available positions to offer members looking for new job opportunities. Light refreshments were provided, compliments of the Smeal College of Business, as was the first year of dues for new members to our chapter. Raffle prizes were also given out to those who attended, ranging from Mr. Stoddard's book *The Right Leader* to Penn State blankets and apparel. Please stay tuned for our next Networking Event! **We would love to see even more of our alumni come out and take advantage of these professional development programs!**

Giving Back at the 1st CP Center

Obstacle Course: On January 29th, a group of our NNJ Penn Staters competed in the Obstacle Course at the 1st Cerebral Palsy Center of NJ in Belleville. The competition was fierce and our team competed in 35 events! The Penn Staters made us proud out there, but unfortunately they just couldn't compete with the talent of the students at the CP Center.

Basketball Shoot-out: On March 20th, our chapter volunteered for our fourth year at the CP Center for their Annual Basketball Shoot-out in the gym at Bloomfield College, in Bloomfield, NJ. As in the years past we helped to rebound as well as anything else to help the CP center make this event another success. It's another great chance to volunteer and help out a great cause!

For more information about the CP Center, visit www.cerebralpalsycenter.org



HAPPY HOURS in HOBOKEN

Come join us at the monthly Hoboken Happy Hours at our favorite watering hole - **Texas Arizona**, 76 River Street (across from the Path station). You'll find us in the back room, from 6-9pm, the second Tuesday of each month. Look out for details on the weekly listserv, or check our website for updates:

<http://www.psunj.org/>

Spring Football Event!

This year, **coach Dick Anderson** and **former running back Aaron Harris** met us at Miami Mike's Sports Zone in East Hanover on Sunday, May 2nd. Coach Anderson has spent 33 years at the University coaching in many different capacities. They both spoke of their experiences at Penn State, answering questions, happy to hand out autographs and take pictures.



THON Golf Outing



On May 10th, the Northern NJ chapter had our 7th Annual THON Golf Outing to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund, conquering childhood cancer. 71 golfers came out and raised \$10,000 at the beautiful Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park (Union County). In the seven years that we have organized this tournament, we have raised more than \$90,000 for THON. Special thanks to David Reese, Adam Duff, and Mike Cocco, the co-chairs for this year's event.



Looking for a job? Check out our Job Board, posted on our website:

www.psunj.org/networking/jobs.shtml

In the next issue...

- Football Season is right around the corner! Make sure your dues are up to date for a chance to buy and sell tickets through our Football Exchange program.
- Annual Freshman Send Off Picnic: July 25th, 12-5pm, Knoll Park in Parsippany.
- Announcing our Scholarship winners!

Have questions? A new idea for an event? Want to get involved?

E-mail us at pennstatenj@gmail.com

Look for updates on <http://www.psunj.org/>

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Northern New Jersey Chapter



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