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# PSU Connecticut Valley Chapter Newsletter

April 2018

## Annual Spring Dinner & Scholarship Fundraiser May 3,2018 at 6:00PM

Join us for our annual spring dinner on Thursday, May 3rd at 6:00pm at The Wethersfield Country Club in Wethersfield, CT.

We are excited to welcome, as this year's Keynote speaker, Tim Durant. Tim was a former Nittany Lion Mascot from 1991-1993 and known among other things, as the push-up king! We are fortunate to have one of the best mascots living right here in Connecticut!



Tim has been a Physical Therapist since 1997. He received a Bachelors of Science 1994 from Pennsylvania State University and a Masters of Science in Physical Therapy 1997 from Thomas Jefferson University. Together with his wife Francesca, he fulfilled his dream of opening his own private practice in September of 2005. He now runs a very busy practice in Glastonbury. Tim and Francesca live in Glastonbury with their three boys. Tim enjoys coaching his kids sports and playing golf.



The cost of the event is \$40 per person. Recent Alum (last 5 yrs) or current or prospective student \$30. Non-members \$45. The event will include a silent auction to benefit our Freshman Scholarship Fund. We will also have raffle prizes, great food, AND..... Creamery Ice Cream!!

### 2018 PSU Football Schedule

Saturday Apr. 21  
Blue-White Spring Game  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA 3:00pm ET  
BTN

Saturday Sep. 1  
Appalachian State Mountaineers  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Saturday Sep. 8  
at Pittsburgh Panthers  
Heinz Field, Pittsburgh, PA Time TBA

Saturday Sep. 15  
Kent State Golden Flashes  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Friday Sep. 21  
at Illinois Fighting Illini  
Memorial Stadium, Champaign, IL Time TBA

Saturday Sep. 29  
Ohio State Buckeyes  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Saturday Oct. 6- OFF

Saturday Oct. 13  
Michigan State Spartans  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Saturday Oct. 20  
at Indiana Hoosiers  
Memorial Stadium, Bloomington, IN Time TBA

Saturday Oct. 27  
Iowa Hawkeyes  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Saturday Nov. 3  
at Michigan Wolverines  
Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor, MI Time TBA

Saturday Nov. 10  
Wisconsin Badgers  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Saturday Nov. 17  
at Rutgers Scarlet Knights  
High Point Solutions Stadium, Piscataway, NJ Time TBA

Saturday Nov. 24  
Maryland Terrapins  
Beaver Stadium, University Park, PA Time TBA

Saturday Dec. 1  
Big Ten Championship Game  
Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN Time TBA

Please join the Chapter at Sliders in West Hartford on Football Saturdays to enjoy the games and cheer on our Nittany Lions!

## Letter From the President

In June of 2017, as I looked at the big shoes that I had to fill coming into the role of president, I thought to myself, why did I sign up for this? In fact, why do any of us volunteer? These questions led me to dub 2017-2018 year as “the year of why”. We challenged ourselves as a board to think about how we do things and why, in order to better serve you.

So now I get to ask you, why? Not just why are you a member, but why do you show up? Why don't you show up? Why do you open my emails? Why are you reading this? Why haven't you bought your tickets to the Spring Dinner yet? I, along with the rest of the board, really want to know.

My “why” has a lot to do with our support for current students. In fact, one of the things I'm most proud of as a chapter is our fundraising efforts. Reading over the thank you letters from scholarship recipients, hearing how they plan to become physicians assistants, veterinarians, meteorologists, (and of course actuaries), I feel privileged that we're able to be a small part of their journey at Penn State. As a scholarship recipient myself, I'm proud to keep the cycle of Penn State generosity going, and I cannot wait to see what the next generation of our alumni accomplish.

I'd love to hear your “why”. Whether why Penn State or why you continue to be involved, the reason behind our actions can be a driving force for change and advancement. As your local alumni chapter, we want to make sure that we're serving past, current and future Penn Staters in the best way possible. We want to focus on continuous improvement, doing the things that have the greatest impact for the good of the community and the glory of Penn State. That's why we're here. Why are you? I look forward to hearing from you in person at our annual Spring Dinner!

For the Glory,  
 Jessica Tucker  
 President

### Upcoming Chapter Events 2018

#### **Thursday, April 17th Board Meeting**

7:00pm Open to all  
 98 Rosewood Drive, Rocky Hill, CT

#### **Thursday, May 3rd Annual Spring Dinner & Scholarship Fundraiser**

6:00-10:00pm Wethersfield Country Club  
 76 Country Club Rd., Wethersfield, CT

#### **June (Date TBD)**

Career Networking Happy Hour.....Details to Come!

#### **Sunday, August 12 Freshman Sendoff**

Time TBA  
 Northwest Park, Windsor CT

We have several new committees such as Membership, Social Events, and Admissions, among others. There are opportunities to volunteer for one of the committees or even on a single project. You can check your interests on the enclosed membership form or contact one of the board members to volunteer.

### THE CT VALLEY BUS PROGRAM

For the 20th consecutive year, the chapter coordinated a bus service that brought local PSU students to and from school at Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Greg Malone took over the coordinating duties from Dean Delach this year and roughly 450 students took advantage of the service.

Check out our website at [www.psuctvalley.org](http://www.psuctvalley.org). Outreach, Bus for information regarding the 2018-19 school year and note the profits made from the bus are either put towards our freshman scholarship fund or used on activities to support PSU students.

## Alumni Admissions

2018 was another great year for the CT Valley Alumni Admissions Volunteer Recruitment program. We continued our partnership with Nick Levine from PSU who is our Admissions contact for Connecticut. Together with Nick and the PSU Admissions team, our alumni volunteers participated in high school college fairs around the region along with Prospective and Accepted Student Receptions held at area hotels. In addition, our chapter hosted the annual Freshman Sendoff picnic in August which is attended by area alumni, incoming students and their families. If you would like to become a part of our chapter's Alumni Admissions Volunteer team, please check the box on the membership form or contact our chapter's Alumni Admissions Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Currie Sands, at [sands151@yahoo.com](mailto:sands151@yahoo.com) or call/text Lisa at 978-314-8120. Share your Lion Pride by helping to recruit future Penn Staters!



Nick Levine & Lisa Sands

### When Harry Met Madi

“It’s so nice when you can sit with someone and not have to talk...,” Harry Burns said in the popular film *When Harry Met Sally*. This expression epitomizes what all Penn State Alumni feel when meeting a fellow Alumnus. Recently two of our local Alumni, Harry Best and Madi Shutt, sat down to learn more about each other’s lives.

Both grew up in Pennsylvania. Harry was born in Middleburg, PA and spent much of his early life riding around State College in a stroller. As a campus cop, his dad spent a lot of time around the football area, so Harry and his mother would talk regularly with Joe Pa. According to Harry, “I gave him some great advice, but doubt he paid attention to a 1 year old.” Madi grew up in Wayne, PA a small suburb of Philadelphia with her older sister and parents. She spent much of her early years playing every sport from soccer to swimming to field hockey. It was not until Madi started looking at colleges, that Penn State really came into her life. “I actually never wanted to go to Penn State,” Madi explained. “I was being recruited to play Division I field hockey, but my parents made me apply to Pitt, where my sister went, and Penn State.” After touring the College of Communications TV facilities, Madi knew she wanted to be a Nittany Lion. Harry started his education in Chemical Engineering and ended up graduating with a BS in Accounting in 1971, and then got an MBA in Finance in 1974.

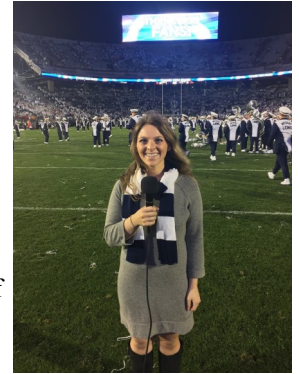
Though they come from different backgrounds, both Harry and Madi have fond memories of Penn State as a student. Harry was captain of his freshman dorm Intramural Volleyball team, which won the University championship over 90 other teams of dorm, frat and locals, while Madi spent 4 years on the Penn State Club Field Hockey team where they won five National Championships in Virginia Beach.

One aspect of Penn State that Harry and Madi both love is that alumni are everywhere. After moving to Tampa in 2009, Harry reached out to the alumni chapter and it really made him feel at home. He joined the Board and was fortunate to be part of the Host Chapter activity for the Capital 1 (2010) and Outback (2011) Bowls. Harry returned to CT in early 2014 and began his current involvement with the CT Valley Chapter. He attends many events with his fiancé Laura who is a “converted” Penn State fan. Laura even lent her artistic talents to create “Ice Cream Cones” for our recent award winning Alumni parade costumes. Harry is currently transitioning into the Treasure position. Madi also quickly found the alumni group after moving to Connecticut. She is currently the Communications Co-Captain.

Both Harry and Madi enjoy attending the Saturday afternoon football watch parties, volunteer activities and of course the spring dinner. Like most Penn Stater’s these two bleed blue and white. Harry takes pride in “Penn State’s reputation as a major research university, world campus leader, a university with such expansive presence in all sports both men and women along with the incredible academic success and graduation rates they achieve” as well as taking personal pride in following his father’s footsteps. Madi loves the “the connections that Penn State builds, the philanthropic opportunities, and the pride that each individual tied to the University has.” Harry and Madi agree that Penn State has a very solid foundation academically, socially, and in so many other ways. This depth has enabled us to weather adversity of all kinds and both are proud to say “We Are”.

Harry met Madi on a Monday night in February to get a drink at a local brewery. Despite their generational difference, their conversation was anything but silent. Their love of Penn State was a commonality that all Alumni share near and far. And to answer Sally’s question from the 1989 flick, “Harry, are we becoming friends?” Madi responded with “Yes! Harry and I have definitely become friends!

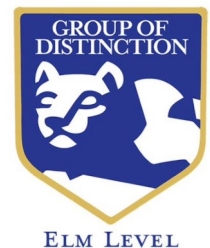
Harry- Opened Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh with the Pittsburgh Symphony



Madi- Sideline reporter for the 2014 Pinstripe Bowl and traveled to Cuba to cover the Penn State Baseball team

## Connecticut Valley...

### A Chapter of Distinction



PSU CT Valley Chapter achieved the highest level evaluation in its activity levels, outreach and supporting programs, giving us A Chapter of Distinction at the Elm Level! The participation of the alumni of our chapter made this possible.

Connecticut Valley Chapter  
Penn State Alumni Association

Terry Schnure  
34 Broadleaf Circle  
Windsor, CT 06095-1633



*Bringing a Bit of  
Happy Valley to the  
Connecticut Valley*

This is our annual newsletter mailing to PSU alumni in the CT Valley chapter area. Part of the mailing is paid for by the Penn State Alumni Association. We keep members informed about our activities by e-mail the rest of the year, so please send your e-mail address to Kathryn Williams at [nittanykat2@gmail.com](mailto:nittanykat2@gmail.com) if you'd like to be on the distribution and are not already. Our website and/or Facebook pages contain a chapter membership form, officer contact information, news about upcoming events and the student bus service, and more. Costs for many of our events such as the football TV parties and freshmen sendoff are supported by annual dues from members, so please continue to support the chapter!

If you would like to join the over 300 alumni and friends with official Connecticut Penn State license plates, please contact Steve Putterman at [putterman.ct@gmail.com](mailto:putterman.ct@gmail.com) or 860-231-7710 to receive an application. The vanity plates feature a PSU shield and "WE ARE PENN STATE" slogan and a portion of the proceeds generated go towards our freshman scholarship fund.



**Penn State CT License Plates**