MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been a long winter in State College, so we are excited to finally see signs of spring. On campus, our graduating students are busy with final classes, job interviews and spending time with the friends they have made over the last few years. At the same time, we are busy welcoming accepted students and their families as they move closer to deciding whether they will be joining the Penn State family—we certainly hope they do!

Last month, the Parents Program celebrated four years on campus. During this time, we have enhanced existing programs and developed additional services for families with our campus partners. In particular, we have seen growth in parent involvement efforts, with an increasing number of families interested in volunteering their time to Penn State. Our Parents Council and Parent Ambassador Program have grown this year and contributed positively to both the Parents Program and student success initiatives—including the development of this newsletter. More information about getting involved can be found on our website at parents.psu.edu and applications will be available in fall 2014.

In this issue, we focus on the many opportunities that our students have to become involved in meaningful service initiatives both locally and globally during their Penn State years. We often get asked “What can my student do in addition to their major to help prepare them for life after college?” or “How can I encourage my student to make the most of their time at Penn State?” If your student is interested in giving back, we hope you will share these resources with them. In addition, for those of you joining us for Blue-White Weekend, we have included information about this year’s events along with the history of Blue-White. For families with graduating seniors, information about Spring Commencement, class rings and the yearbook is included.

Enjoy,

Jennifer Mallen
Director, Parents Program
The Blue-White Game is a great opportunity to see the football team up close. The tradition of a scrimmage game open to the public dates back to 1951 when the game was called “The Bucket Bowl”. The Daily Collegian proposed that a water bucket was to be presented to the captain of the winning team and so they referred to the game as “The Bucket Bowl”. The first spring scrimmage hosted in 1951 was created to benefit Penn State’s general scholarship fund. The intrasquad scrimmage was sponsored by the Alumni Association. Since new grass had just been planted at Beaver Stadium, State College High School agreed to let the game be played on their field. Students were given half price from the $1 admission to encourage support for the game. The first game was not very successful in raising money for the general scholarship fund, but they tried again in 1952. In 1952, the team was again unsuccessful in raising money for the scholarship fund since the game competed for student attendance with a home baseball game that same day. By 1955, the Blue-White Game had become a tradition at Penn State and student attendance was increasing each year. The first scrimmage in 1951 saw about 500 people in attendance while more recently we have seen the numbers surpass 70,000 fans in attendance. The tradition of the Blue-White Game has spanned 63 years and has developed into a weekend of events with the football scrimmage at the center of it all. For more information about the history of the Blue-White Game visit the Penn State Athletics Site at http://www.gopsusports.com/sports/m-footbl/spec-rel/041910aad.html.

This year the Blue-White Game will be presented by AAA and is set for Saturday, April 12. Kickoff for the game has been announced as 1:30 pm. There will be no admission or parking fee for the Blue-White Game and the stadium lots will open at 8:00 am. Prior to the Blue-White Game, Beaver Stadium will host an autograph session with some members of the team. The time for the autograph session has not been announced yet, but will be announced prior to the start of the weekend. Starting three hours prior to kickoff the Penn State football gameday Fan Festival will take place on Curtin Road, just as it does during the regular season, and will feature numerous merchants, food vendors, games and interactive displays. Please keep in mind that Beaver Stadium and other venues at Penn State have a strict bag policy that will be in place for Blue-White Weekend. For more information about the bag policy visit http://www.gopsusports.com/facilities/bag-policy.html.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

“Blue White weekend can be very enjoyable, as long as you realize that you may not see your student much (except at dinner time). While the football game is a natural attraction, much of the fun of the weekend comes from seeing what else University Park has to offer.

In the past I have watched a Nittany Lions baseball game and a field hockey game and checked out other aspects of Penn State life. I have strolled around the campus, shopped along College Avenue, and enjoyed a Glee Club concert. Look for special events: in 2013 I caught some of the NCAA gymnastics national championships, which Penn State was hosting in Rec Hall.

Don’t be surprised if your student is unable to join you at some of these events. They are there to study, remember. But they will always been happy to join you at dinner time.”

— Bill Baker, Penn State Parent
COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION FOR SPRING 2014

Commencement
Commencement ceremonies will be held from May 9 through May 11 this year at the University Park Campus. Ceremonies will be held at the Bryce Jordan Center and Eisenhower Auditorium. Each of the 11 colleges will be conducting separate ceremonies. Specific information concerning your student’s college ceremony was provided by the college. For a complete schedule, please visit www.commencement.psu.edu/future.html.

Each ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes. Seating for guests will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets are not required and there is no guest limit. Visit http://commencement.psu.edu/guestseating.html for complete families and guest information.

Bryce Jordan Center Parking and Directions
Guests attending commencement at the Bryce Jordan Center are encouraged to park in one of the following lots: Stadium West, Jordan East and Orange E (near Shields Building). There is no fee. Guests should enter the Bryce Jordan Center at Gates A, B, C or D. Parking for guests with disabilities is available in the Founders Parking Lot (Orange L) at the Bryce Jordan Center. For directions to the Bryce Jordan Center, visit http://www.bjc.psu.edu/directions.aspx.

Eisenhower Auditorium Parking and Directions
Guests attending commencement at Eisenhower Auditorium are encouraged to park in Eisenhower Parking Deck located directly behind Eisenhower Auditorium. There is no fee. For directions to Eisenhower Auditorium, please visit www.cpa.psu.edu/venues/eisenhower.html.

Photographs
Photographers from GradImages™ will be at each commencement ceremony to take photographs of students as they individually approach, cross and exit the stage. GradImages™ will contact students soon after graduation with complete details.

Diplomas
Diplomas will be mailed, at no cost, approximately four weeks after the ceremony. If you have questions regarding commencement, please contact the Office of University Relations at graduation@psu.edu. For more information, please visit http://commencement.psu.edu/.
LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PENN STATE STUDENTS
BY JULIE LEBLANC PROGRAM DIRECTOR - SERVICE

Students seeking involvement in the State College and Centre County communities can take advantage of Penn State University Park’s robust selection of service opportunities. Programs range from day-long service events, week-long service immersion experiences, and long-term involvement in community service student organizations.

There are many ways to get involved! Service programs allow students to learn about the issues impacting the area, feel a deeper sense of connection to campus and the community, and make a positive impact.

Fresh START Day of Service
http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/freshstart/
Penn State’s largest day of service is a campus tradition for incoming, change-of-campus, and transfer students. Volunteers meet other students, serve at non-profit organizations in the local community, and get rooted in service during their time on campus. The day concludes with the volunteer involvement fair, which helps students learn about various service-focused student organizations and ways to continue their involvement.

Encourage your student to get rooted in service. Fresh START is Saturday, August 30, 2014! Sign-up will take place in mid-August at volunteer.psu.edu.

Urban Service Experience and Alternative Spring Break
http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/service/servicetrips.shtml
Urban Service Experience and Alternative Spring Break are week-long service immersion experiences. Students travel to communities as a group and work with non-profit organizations to address social issues through direct service and reflection. Past Urban Service Experience and Alternative Spring Break trips have focused on youth development, disaster relief, rural housing and poverty, and hunger and homelessness in communities such as New York City; Washington, DC; Chavies, Kentucky; and Beards Fork, West Virginia.

BE House
http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/service/BEhouse.shtml
The BE (Be Engaged) House Special Living Option is designed to engage first-year students in service and leadership opportunities available on campus and in the community. Residents participate in service projects and leadership activities throughout the year. Through these programs, students learn about the ways that they can contribute to the Penn State,
local, and global communities now and in the future. Students request the BE House SLO as a Housing Contract preference, so parents and families should encourage their student to consider this option.

**Council of LionHearts**
http://sites.psu.edu/lionhearts/
The Council of LionHearts provides a leadership network for community service student organizations to advance a culture of service on campus. Current organizations include Alpha Phi Omega, Circle K, Habitat for Humanity, Helping Across the Community, On My Honor, Paws of Friendship, Rotaract Club, STATERs, Student Red Cross Club, and Student United Way. These service organizations coordinate local service projects throughout the year with many opportunities for students to get involved. Membership in Council of LionHearts organizations is open to all Penn State students.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**
http://mlk.psu.edu/ or http://www.volunteer.psu.edu/
Held annually in January, the MLK, Jr. Day of Service is part of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration. The event upholds the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s commitment to public service. Volunteers complete service projects at organizations in the community to address local needs.

Volunteer.psu.edu
Penn State’s volunteer website, volunteer.psu.edu, lists a wide array of service opportunities for students. Parents and families can check out the website to learn about on- and off-campus service events and volunteer opportunities. Encourage your student to visit the website and sign up for service. Many opportunities are offered evenings and weekends and transportation is often provided.

**Talking With Your Student About Service**
Is your student interested in service, but doesn’t know where to start? Here are a few tips for family members to get the conversation started.

- Have a conversation with your student- How have they gotten involved in the Penn State and State College communities? How can their personal and academic interests connect to service opportunities?
- Encourage your student to sign up for Fresh START Day of Service (sign up will be open mid-August at volunteer.psu.edu)
- Inform your student about volunteer.psu.edu to check out one-time and short-term service projects on campus and in the local community.
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“When I applied to my first service trip, I didn’t know that it would shape my college career. After an exciting and eye-opening week volunteering in rural West Virginia, however, I realized that I had found something special. In no other activity could I have made friends with such clear, undiscriminating compassion, or memories that still make me grin two years later. In staying involved with service trips, I have continued to connect with like-minded students while also leading and learning with hands-on projects. These trips help me give back, but they have also helped me connect with my values: in communities of need alongside selfless peers, my value for humility and active citizenship is most clear. Service trips have guided all of my involvement at Penn State, while also shaping my convictions for life.”

-Elise Boretz, Nutritional Sciences, Junior

“Since becoming a student at Penn State I have volunteered on campus and throughout the community, which has made my experience here at Penn State even better than I could have asked for. Volunteering as a student in organizations like Fresh START Day of Service and Students Engaging Students has given me a sense of community and ownership to the area. I have loved every volunteer trip that I have been on knowing that I am giving back to a community that has given me so much since coming to Penn State. I hope more students get involved throughout the community to enhance their experience at Penn State. GET ROOTED!”

-Taylor Sweeney, Architectural Engineering, Junior

“Service has played an important part in my life. At a young age I discovered that devoting yourself to the needs of others opens up the world around you. Being able to connect with people from all parts of life, isn’t only an eye opening experience, but a way to learn of the community around us. It’s slowly teaching me how to give back rather than be self-focused. I strive to live a life full of service to those around me.”

-Luke Stawovy, Security and Risk Analysis, Senior

If you are interested in seeing more entries from the Council of LionHearts Blog please visit http://sites.psu.edu/lionhearts/blog/.
PARENT TO PARENT: REFLECTING ON SERVICE

Student Service and a Spring Break that Changed Everything

“Many students find their “people” at Penn State quickly, and settle in to a social circle that they love. Our oldest daughter, however, didn’t find hers until she picked up a scrap of paper from the floor of the HUB that was actually an invitation to join Penn State’s Global Water Brigades.

Rather than throw it in the trash, she called home to ask if she could go on a spring break trip - to dig ditches in Honduras (!?!). My husband, Ken, and I agreed (eventually) to an adventure that was pivotal for Kate, who will graduate this May from Schreyer with a self-designed degree in Social Entrepreneurship.

Back in March of 2012 Kate joined about 25 other Penn Staters for a spring break of digging knee deep ditches and laying PVC pipe that would transport fresh drinking water to a remote village. Just as important, the other “Brigaders” were wildly fun, adventurous, like-minded students who formed the kind of lifelong friendships we all remember as our strongest and dearest.

Kate eventually went on to lead Penn State’s Chapter of the Global Water Brigades as President, and helped organize subsequent trips back to Honduras and later to Ghana.

After graduation? She has just been offered a HESE Fellowship to lead the launch of an ag-related business in Sierra Leone.

Ken and I couldn’t be more proud of the leadership and life lessons she learned through her service experience, and hope other Penn Staters will enjoy the same.

— Barb Bridendolph Ortbal, Penn State Parent

Service at Penn State

Through community service at Penn State, my daughter, a junior, has built new relationships, traveled to new geographies, applied business concepts while rewriting organizational bylaws, setting goals, and monitoring project outcomes, written and presented speeches for leadership positions, and experienced triumphs and disappointments — all valuable experiences to carry into the future. Most importantly, her community service has allowed her to discover and develop her passions for impacting her communities.

— Pam Snashall, Penn State Parent

Is there a topic that you would like to see featured in an upcoming issue of Parents Pride? We want your input. Please email your ideas to parents@psu.edu.
### KEY DATES:

#### Housing Dates and Residence Hall Closings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes End</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>May 5 - 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester Ends: Residence halls close at 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maymester classes begin</td>
<td>May 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Session I classes begin</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Day: No classes</td>
<td>May 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Session II classes begin</td>
<td>July 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day: No classes</td>
<td>July 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Sessions II ends: Residence halls close at noon</td>
<td>August 16</td>
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### Community Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bring It On: The Musical</td>
<td>April 17 Eisenhower Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Aldean 2014 Night Train Tour</td>
<td>May 2 Bryce Jordan Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Maher LIVE Stand-Up Tour</td>
<td>May 3 Bryce Jordan Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State College Spikes vs. Williamsport Crosscutters (Home Opener)</td>
<td>June 14 Medlar Field at Lubrano Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts</td>
<td>July 10-13 Downtown State College</td>
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For more information on community events, please visit the Central PA Convention and Visitor’s Bureau site at [http://visitpennstate.org](http://visitpennstate.org) and click on the “local events” link.

### SUGGESTED READING

**Don’t Tell Me What to Do, Just Send Money**

By Helen E. Johnson and Christine Schelhas-Miller

The first edition of this book was published over 10 years ago. The new edition of the book was released to help parents adjust to the changing times -- including cell phones, social media, and technology. This is a great book for parents who are struggling to find the key in appropriate communication with student while they are away for college. This book has a straightforward and humorous take on everything your student will encounter in their college years.

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