

THON...

Fall 2001 Volume 5 No. 1

The newsletter of the Dance Marathon Alumni Interest Group

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the 30th Anniversary of Dance Marathon, there is excitement in the air. The DMAIG will celebrate its fifth anniversary in 2002. Our mission is to "Connect Penn State Alumni with the Penn State Dance Marathon through fundraising and service opportunities." We invite you to join us as we work on three goals between now and the 30th Anniversary to support our mission! Our goals are to:

1. Endow the Rick Funk Leadership Award
2. Improve communication with our constituency (the alumni and especially DMAIG members), the Overall Committee, and the Alumni Association
3. Partner with the Four Diamonds Fund to create a spectacular 30th Anniversary celebration that will reconnect alums with THON

We would love your help with fundraising or with the planning of the 30th Anniversary Celebration. We want to meet your expectations of membership. Please fill out the enclosed survey and provide us with your viewpoints or give any board member a call or an email to share your thoughts.

We also want to think about the future of the DMAIG Board. We want to expand our board and our membership base. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the DMAIG or potentially serving on the board, please contact me.

Please join us in any way you can. And let us know what we can do to help you reconnect to a cause that helped to define your Penn State experience.

For the Glory,



Jill Harris Helmer
President, DMAIG

Within Reach

A DMAIG RECAP OF THON 2001

The DMAIG once again enjoyed an incredible weekend of activities during the 2001 Dance Marathon.

The group kicked off the weekend by assisting with a Saturday morning bathroom break. It was a great way to spend some time with old friends, sneeze a few times, rub some butts (when is the last time you did that anyway?) and support the dancers.

The weekend continued with a core group of volunteers participating in the Lion Line telethon. We contacted THON alumni and donors during the weekend. The event raised a whopping \$43,594, versus \$15,786 the year before. We hope to expand our number of volunteers next year and assist Lion Line in passing the \$50,000 mark.

On Saturday evening, close to 100

DMAIG alumni gathered at Player's for the annual Alumni and Parent Reception. Following the reception, we headed to Rec Hall to make the Alumni donation. Combined with the efforts of the 1991 and 1996 Overall Committees, we presented a check for \$11,000. We also presented the Rick Funk Leadership Award to

dancer Kristen Schein, 2000 Family Relations Chair. Kristen was nominated by Overall Chair Walt Breuninger, who commended her spirit and dedication to THON. We are

proud to welcome Kristen to the elite circle of award winners and to the ranks of alumni!

We ended the weekend at our annual DMAIG Board meeting on Sunday. At the meeting, we started planning for THON 2002, which will include a 30th Anniversary Celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!

"It was a great way to spend some time with old friends, sneeze a few times, rub some butts (when is the last time you did that anyway?)"



DMAIG members at Rec Hall before presenting their donation.

Our Way of Giving Back...

The DMAIG started the Rick Funk Leadership Award as part of Thon's 25th Anniversary celebration. The objective is to recognize a student, through a cash award, who embodies the spirit, commitment and enthusiasm that Rick Funk brought to the Marathon. Presently, we have a thorough application and committee review process in order to choose our student recipient on an annual basis.

Most of us remember Rick as our longtime Thon Advisor and current DMAIG Board Member. This award is our way to say "thank you" to Rick as well as to reward another individual who has committed countless hours to Thon. As we all know, this is a very selfless act, which often requires that

students forfeit other financial opportunities to participate.

Currently, through the generosity of our alumni, we have raised nearly 65% of our goal to endow this award. Endowment is a critical step towards the stability and future of the award. Beginning this fall, we will be contacting you through a representative of your Overall Committee to solicit your help. Each Committee year will be challenged to raise the most money toward the award. The winning team will be recognized at our 30th Anniversary celebration. If you have any questions about the Award, please contact Steve Target at psugo@aol.com

Please be generous, we appreciate your support.

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The DMAIG has a history of planning an array of events in the cities where Penn Staters live - New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington DC - from bar nights to black tie galas, the events have been great opportunities to have

"From bar nights to black tie galas, the events have been great"

fun (just look at these photos), see old friends and meet new ones, and most importantly, they raise money for the children and families supported by the Four Diamonds Fund.

If you would like to help plan an event in your area, please contact Amy Vanderwall at alvanderwall@juno.com.



Facts from the Funkster

This is the first column from our "People Reporter" Rick Funk. Based out of Alabama, Rick's phone and email account serve as the "hub" of all past THON "dish." If you have updates for him and would like to see your name or others appear in the lights, please contact him via the information provided below.

It's hard to believe that it has been nearly five years since I attempted to pull together an update. While I have spoken to a number of past Thon folks during that time period, I didn't do the best job of jotting down the necessary information about the jobs that people specifically had—the memory isn't quite what it used to be. So to get myself ready for this attempt at an update, I went through the cards and letters that I received during the holidays to get me started. So, with an apology in advance for a rather skimpy update and a promise to do better next time, let's get started and see what some folks are up to.

Did you know...

- **Betsy MacKenzie** is a Business Integration Manager in the Sales Operation group for AZ (the merger of Astra and Zeneca) and planned the launch of two new products, including one for asthma in Orlando.
- Betsy had the chance to travel to New Orleans where she caught up with Jon Ferrara who still has his gallery in the Big Easy. She also has spent time in San Francisco, Las Vegas, LA and Bermuda.
- **Beth Metzger Gruber** continues to work in New York and has also been elected one of the Vice-Presidents for Sigma Delta Tau. She and I have had a couple of chances to talk during the past year about the chapter at Alabama as well. The last time we spoke she and Ross were getting ready to add another addition to their family in April with Alissa anxiously awaiting a new brother or sister.
- Things must happen in two's for the 1988 group because Denise and

Steve Target are the proud parents of Courtney and Blake—no, they aren't twins. Steve is also serving on the AIG board for Marathon alums and still works for Northwestern Mutual in King of Prussia.

- The twins belong to Andy and Lisa Tait Longo. Talk about legacies—Lisa is the Executive Director for Alpha Sigma Alpha and Andy is the Director of Chapter Services for Lambda Chi Alpha.
- Jen Moebus Stadler built a new house in Ellicott City, MD where they have moved with their two sons, Reed and Grant. She continues to consult part-time, while playing soccer mom and car-pooling the boys to their various activities.
- Ed Shiring has also moved to Washington to move into software sales, and is staying with his brother Chris Shiring who is working for American Express Financial Services.
- **Christine Madden** and **Susanne Weinstein** had the chance to travel to South Bend last December. Susanne had put together a promotion for Halls Cough Drops seeking the loudest college football fan. Christine is living in Washington and training for the Marine Corps Marathon in October. She often sees Diane Gebicki along with Brian Ray, David Lorenzo and Steve Castor.

Spotted....

- Jill Bevevino Tonachio, Kirsten Vensel, and Chris Heidrick at their ten year reunion of the 1991 group (they even wore those green and gold sprite shirts) during Marathon last year.
- **Colleen (Finnegan)** and **John Woerner** in attendance with their son, Cole, who was born in February 2000, at the State College wedding of Jill Lynn Harris and Chad Helmer. Jill and Chad are living in the Allentown area where Jill just accepted a new position at Air Products and

Chemicals.

- John Woerner works for McKinsey Consulting in NYC and Colleen is back to work as an attorney. You might remember that they spent time working in London for a few years before heading back to the Big Apple. Amy Cate Stacy and Jeremy Frank were also in attendance at the big event, which occurred just a few short months before their big day.
- Alyssa Cherkin, Shelly Vickers, Lisa Hoffman, and Chris Shaffer celebrated the March wedding of Amy Cate and Jeremy Frank. Amy and Jeremy are back in State College now. Amy works in development for Penn State and Jeremy just started an engineering consulting company—KCF Technologies.
- Marriage seems to be a theme for the '97 crowd... Tony Lombardo married Jennifer Binder on May 12, 2001 in Pittsburgh, PA. They now live in Chicago.
- **Maggie Cohen & Matt Kaminer** got married November 11th, 2000. Maggie has since finished law school and they are living in Washington, D.C.
- **Lisa Hoffman** is also planning her wedding for October 20, 2001 in Lehigh Valley, Pa, where she resides.
- **Rhonda Penn** is finishing her masters at Villanova and is engaged to Michael Seideman. The wedding will be April 27, 2002 in Philadelphia.
- **Jared Fragin** is living in New York and just started at NYU's Stern School of Business.

Well, that is about it---while working on this I realized how much I missed writing the update so I am glad for the opportunity. Let me know what you are up to when you get a chance. You can send information via e-mail to rfunk@sa.ua.edu or just call 205-348-8236.

I look forward to hearing from you and until next time.... Thon on!

Upcoming THON Dates

October 27, 2001
1st Day of Solicitation

November 9-11, 2001
Canning Weekend

November 18, 2001
Four Diamonds Carnival

November 30-December 2, 2001
Canning Weekend

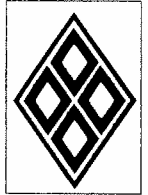
January 18-20, 2002
Canning Weekend

January 31, 2002
Kickoff Dinner

February 2, 2002
King of Prussia Auction

February 15-17, 2002
Canning Weekend

February 22-24, 2002
**2002 PENN STATE
IFC/PANHELLENIC
DANCE MARATHON**



Penn State
Alumni Association

Thon On... is a production of the DMAIG. All corrections and correspondence can be sent to: DMAIG, P.O. Box 924, State College, PA 16804 or to afrank@psu.edu.

THON'S TURNING THIRTY— LET'S HAVE A PARTY!

Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready to celebrate! The Dance Marathon Alumni Interest Group and the board of the Four Diamonds Fund are working together on a spectacular **30th Anniversary Celebration**.

The event will take place during Thon 2002 at the Penn Stater Conference Center on Saturday, February 23rd from 7-11pm.

The evening's festivities will include an open bar and sit-down dinner along with great live music. It will be a terrific time to visit with old friends and celebrate the successes of

A formal invitation will be sent later this year. If you have any questions or if you would like to help with the event, please email Christine Madden at cmadden@wasghpo.hyatt.com.



DMAIG members, Ed Kilpela, Alyssa Cherkin, Mark Freed, Mike Sobel, and Jared Fragin celebrating at an event.