

dance marathon alumni interest group annual newsletter 2008

dance marathon 2009 - dream forward - february 20-22

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a letter from the president -ftk, jeff krisciunas

Thank you, thank you,
THANK YOU!

I can't say that enough. The overwhelming support we have seen from dedicated alumni like you has been absolutely amazing over the past year. From your enthusiastic participation in regional events throughout the country to your continued financial contributions to THON and the Four Diamonds Fund, your passion for the kids is unending.

As our mission statement reads, "The DMAIG promises to promote a continuing relationship between students and alumni who care about THON by providing opportunities for alumni to give time, money, and resources to aid the Four Diamonds in the conquering of childhood cancer." Over the past year, THON alumni have epitomized this mission.

In 2008, THON once again far exceeded all expectations, raising over \$6 million, increasing the event's lifetime total to over \$50 million. These incredible totals allow the Four Diamonds Fund to do what it does best: Help children with childhood cancer. As the Fund continues to grow, it will look for new ways to help support finding a cause for all childhood cancer. In addition, the Four Diamonds Fund has recently announced its new initiative to support an experimental therapeutics research effort. I would encourage all of you to read more about this new endowment at www.hmc.psu.edu/fourdiamonds.

Additionally, as our alumni base grows, we will continually be more involved with THON and the Four Diamonds Fund. I strongly encourage all alumni to stay

connected. One great way to do that is attend the annual 4 Miles for Four Diamonds Walk in Hershey each September. In addition to the generous contributions that are raised at the walk each year, the event is a tremendous opportunity to get back in touch with Four Diamonds Families, Hershey staff and past THON Alumni. Even Four Diamonds Fund founder Mr. Charles Millard was there!

As the completion of the freestanding Penn State Children's Hospital becomes more of a reality as each day goes by, please join me in helping to support THON and the Four Diamonds Fund.

We can, and WE WILL conquer childhood cancer. One day, one child, one dance at a time! ♦

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looking back... -ftk, dan cocco

THON 2008 was an amazing success, and I would like to thank you for all your support through your organizations and the DMAIG. To the newest alumni, like myself, welcome to this great organization. Like all of you, my love of THON and Penn State is as strong as ever. Like you, I am committed to supporting the families of the Four Diamonds Fund as we conquer pediatric cancer. Together, we have a

big job to do this year.

As a past Dancer, THON chair, and overall committee member, I witnessed firsthand the important role of our alumni. We are the backbone of many support networks for our philanthropy. We are the donor base for fundraising efforts. We are the participants in the 5K run, and we fill the stands of the BJC year after year. We are advocates for families who live with pediatric cancer



everywhere. Wherever we go, THON is with us, and those around us will know about it.

THON has given us so many great experiences and friend-

ships. The best gift alumni can give back to THON is the promise of continued emotional and financial support. The manner in which you support THON is up to you, but as alumni, we should be striving towards one goal: 100 percent participation by all. Whether you support THON as an event attendee, project organizer, donor, or advocate, there is a role in THON ready for you to take on today.

The DMAIG and THON committees are ready to help you find a way to stay involved. Remember, this is your DMAIG. If you have any feedback, ideas, or suggestions please feel free to contact any board member or me. A well-connected and informed alumni base has helped THON become and remain the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.

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...and roaring forward -ftk, mike hacke

My name is Mike Hacke, and I would like to introduce myself as the overall chair for THON 2009. In the spring of 2006, I experienced my first THON as a spectator in Rec Hall. The energy and excitement that filled the building compelled me to get involved in THON immediately. I have since volunteered as a donor relations captain in 2007 and as the donor relations chairperson in 2008. I am honored to continue supporting THON, the kids, and the students at Penn State this year.

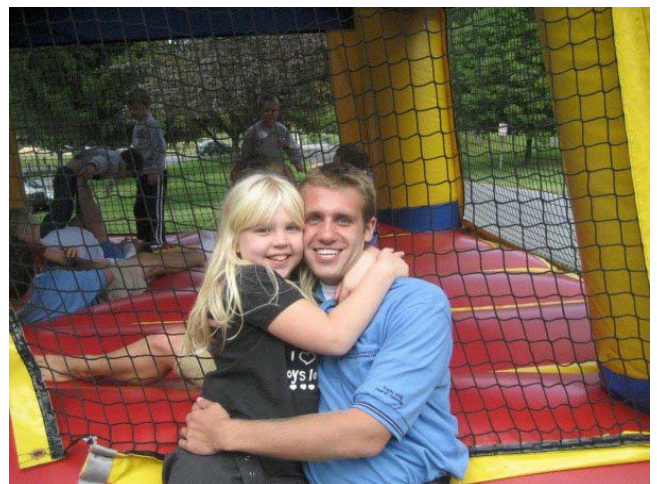
As the donor relations chairperson, I had the privilege of working with many DMAIG members during the course of the year as they organized regional events to support THON. I was thoroughly impressed

as I witnessed countless alumni dedicate their time and energy to the events. The results of their efforts were certainly reflected in the THON 2008 total—DMAIG-sponsored events and fundraisers contributed tens of thousands of dollars to THON.

Since the spring, I have had the pleasure of working with the THON 2009 overall committee. The group is composed of sixteen highly motivated and passionate students, all of whom love THON. The overall committee is proud to be building on the tradi-

tions of the past to develop the future of THON. We have been hard at work all summer on a wide range of initiatives that include an ongoing redesign of thon.org and the online THON store, the expansion of our fundraising methods,

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special delivery ftk, hank angus

What started as a dream several years ago has become even bigger than we expected. We just wanted to give back! We wanted to give hope for all those other families who were traveling on the same road that we were. We wanted to give THON alumni a chance to give back for a cause that they love so dearly. We wanted to spread the word to as many communities as possible that the Four Diamonds Fund was there to help families that really needed help. We wanted to raise money so that one day no child, and no family would ever learn the words "pediatric oncology."

It was a simple, though a crazy, idea of carrying letters from Four Diamonds families from the Hershey Medical Center to THON. We wanted to capture the essence of THON, so participants would come out with the same sensation that they really made a difference. We wanted all of the runners and support staff to have little or no sleep and for each runner to run hard with urgency. Lastly, we wanted to tie each community on the route with the event to increase awareness.

So on February 21, 2007, at 6 pm we left the Hershey Medical Center in brutally cold temperatures, with the wind blowing the freshly fallen snow all over the roads. The sixteen runners of the first THON Express were on their way. As the first runners crested the first hill, the wind was blowing snow across the road, and I thought to myself, "What have I done?!"

Nevertheless, the runners relished the harsh conditions, and the runners pushed themselves all through the night. As we crested the last mountain, we could see the shining dome of the BJC in the distance—our destination after more than 20 hours of running in temperatures never above 20 degrees.

THON Express II had a lot to live up to. How could we recapture the spirit and the feeling of family that we all felt in the inaugural event? Could we reach out to more communities along the way and raise more money for a cure? Would each participant gain the same sense of satisfaction as those on the original team? When we arrived at THON would we make a difference? Would the dancers notice our entrance and grasp what we were trying to do? Would the families see us come in and know that there were letters in that backpack from other families just like them expressing gratitude to all of THON?

It turns out that our worries were unfounded. We became family in an instant. The support along the route was amazing! The spirit of the team, cheering each other on and never giving up even though we ran through several hours of near-whiteout conditions, was an inspiration. Just like THON Express I, TE II delivered its promise. It delivered a small backpack filled with the hopes and dreams of those who just want a normal life. "Thanks" just doesn't seem enough!

Preparations are already underway for TE III. There will be lots of sur-

prises along the way. We can't give them away. We will still need sixteen runners with at least two of those runners being either a Four Diamonds child or parent. The rest of the team will be comprised of THON alumni.

There's still a lot of work to do, and we need your help. We're searching for volunteers near Camp Hill, Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg, Hummels-town, Lemoyne, Wormleysburg, and Carlisle to help fundraise by encouraging local businesses to sell and hang our snowflakes. Our hope is to have many more fundraisers the night of the event along the route, and we'll line the streets with volunteers to cheer on this year's runners. In addition, we're looking for people to help us secure donations for a street banner, t-shirts, gift baskets, food for racers, gas for the support vehicles, and goodie bags for the kids at Hershey Medical Center. We're also seeking help with printing and purchasing snowflakes for our fundraiser. Our fundraising goal for this year is \$30,000. If you are interested in being a runner or just want to help with the event, please visit our website thonexpress.org. There you'll find a runner's application and information about joining as a volunteer. ❖



event showcase

We know our history... even a huge event like THON started as a small fundraiser for a local charity. As Dance Marathon grew larger, and as the connection with the Four Diamonds Fund grew stronger, every year became bigger and better. We know our roots, and we know how we've grown. As alumni we take that same spirit to our local events and fundraisers. So here's at some great annual events, new and old, that keep getting bigger and better every year! If you're ready to start a new event, please register your event with regional events chairperson Emily Greenberg at regionalevents@dmaig.org. We'll help you get going!

DC Chapter Events/JoePaLooza

The DC chapter's THON events have raised an estimated \$50,000 for the kids since 1995. From biannual bar events that grew from raffles and auctions to a Battle of the Bands event, then to black-tie events like Mardi Gras Madness and live music programs with local alumni bands, the chapter's loyal following raised over \$13,000 in 2007.

In July 2007, JoePaLooza was born at Bailey's Pub in Ballston. Velveeta played, and we raised \$2000. The event drew great excitement, as expected, and the repeat event, JoePaLooza 2, was held at the Clarendon Grill on a Thursday night in August 2008. Destro, an alumni band that had played earlier events, joined Velveeta. When door proceeds were combined with an amazing auction, we raised \$2,600.

Probably the hardest things about repeating the event was keeping it fresh, and finding a place big enough. Finding affordable bands is tough. As our crowd grows, booking a venue big enough is a challenge.

JoePaLooza has already grown in 2 years, and Velveeta is interested in helping us again. Ideally, the chapter would like to make it a bigger "band-fest" in a larger venue over a longer span of a weekend. That may be difficult for 2009, but we're going in the right direction!

Onward Upward Basketball Challenge

From a mere idea that came up during a car ride in 2002, to its status an annual staple in the THON alumni fundraising circuit, the Onward Upward Basketball Challenge (OUBC) has come a long way since that its first year in a small YMCA outside Philadelphia. It's six years later and we're gearing up for this year's event on February 7, 2009.

The first OUBC took place in January 2003. The event was formed by Penn State alumni Tim Chiodo ('01), Adam Gentzel ('01), Randy White-side ('01), and Joe Worley ('02). They started the event as a means to stay connected with THON, their fraternity (Kappa Alpha Order), and Penn State, all while continuing to contribute to a great cause they supported during their collegiate days. Later, in 2005, the OUBC planning committee expanded to include the services of John Mazzolla ('01, '03), Jess Worley ('02), KC Gentzel ('01), and Adam Mills.

Last year's OUBC raised over \$26,180, topping the prior year's total of \$18,000, and bringing the six-year total to more than \$74,000. A team of Penn State alumni captained by Joe Hoelscher ('03) raised over \$5,000, winning the fundraising portion. Penn State alumni captained by Matt Muldoon ('01) won the basketball tournament. And in an emotional speech, Adena Comrey, a Four Diamonds family member, helped everyone better understand the cause they had all contributed to. For details about this year's OUBC, please visit onwardupward.com.

Swinging for the Kids

Since its start in May 2004, the Penn State Dance Marathon Golf Outing "Swinging for the Kids," has raised over \$80,000. The annual event has spent all five years at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, New Jersey. The event was founded by alumnus and Northern New Jersey chapter member Jim Napolitano, who chaired the event in its first two years. David Reese and Adam Duff have served as co-chairs since 2006. When the event first started, the main idea was to bring a little taste of THON and the Four Diamonds Fund to alumni and supporters outside of Pennsylvania. From the beginning it was a popular event, drawing about 85 golfers every year. It was one of the first events that a regional alumni group planned in partnership with the THON overall committee, a connection that certainly works! Each year it's a great day not just for the golfers, but for making a difference for the kids.

War on the Shore

We're still counting, and it looks like we raised over \$19,000! That's almost double our day-of-event total from last year! War on the Shore IV continued its rapidly growing success on August 2 at the Windrift in Avalon, NJ. An amazing 425 people showed up on what turned out to be a beautiful evening. Matthew Rice made a guest appearance and set up a gallery of his art for display, and Philadelphia 76ers general manager Ed Stefanski was also in attendance! This year's prize raffle continued to be a vital part in boosting our total. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported the WOTS over the years! For more details, please contact Patrick McNichol at pat.mcnichol@gmail.com.

THON Night Out: Philadelphia

The Philadelphia area's base of THON alumni have a history of great events and great support. The past few years have been incredibly busy in the area, with great events full of alumni working hard for the kids. Delta Sigma Iota alumnus Anshay Bhatia started a series of THON Nights Out that has grown from a one-time event in conjunction with a fundraising weekend to a big annual hit! Of course, THON Nights Out are increasingly popular, and it's tough to make one stand out among almost weekly events in Philadelphia. But the good news is, that's just a sign of how much support exists among THON alumni! Bringing people together brings its own success, and over the past three years, five THON Nights out have brought in about \$5,000! Even better, since these fundraisers started as a brotherhood event, Delta Sigma Iota alumni have spread out and held events in New York and DC as well.

Diamonds over Georgia


I'm still amazed to this day we pulled it off. It took an idea, the knowledge it could be done, dedicated alumni, and sponsors believing in us...and we did it! Penn State Atlanta's annual benefit, Diamonds over Georgia, raised over \$15,800 in two years, and it keeps growing.

Penn State Atlanta is the largest alumni group outside of the tri-state area and DC, and we wanted to give back with an annual event. We sought a way to get recent graduates involved, with an event other than our football parties. Diamonds over Georgia, met all of our needs.

Growing from nothing to raising over \$15,000 in two years felt amazing! But our biggest success has been the following that the event has gained. The new members we have acquired and the experience all guests have at the event are both incredible. We have 21-year-olds pulling a 71-year-old grandpa onto the dance floor to do the twist! As a multigenerational event, we get great interaction among members. We reach new alumni that the chapter never had an event for, and we attract new members who just want to get involved.

In our second year, our total grew from \$5800 to \$10,000, and attendance grew from 85 to 125. Our raffle has been at the root of our success, and an amazing auction in our second year gave our total a real boost. Company matching gifts programs help our donors quickly add to our total. As we grow, we've learned the importance of engaging our members and keeping them involved, trying new ideas, negotiating, and always, always having fun. For more information please visit diamondsovergeorgia.org or email diamonds@psuatlanta.com.

Softball Tournament

It began in a conversation between the NJ and NYC chapters about a summer dinner for THON. It grew into an idea for a low-cost outdoor event that could generate awareness and raise funds. It became a great new event: our annual softball tournament and happy hour. Once we overcame the toughest obstacle in planning, finding a date in the middle of summer schedules and football season that would work for two large chapters, we were well on our way to a fantastic outdoor day. Even in our first year, we had almost 100 alumni participate, and everyone was already looking for the next big event. We focused mostly on young alumni, so we could give recent graduates a chance to stay connected. We raised about \$900, and we're already looking to grow next year! It's a great chance to connect our chapters. 

Thank you to ALL event chairs, volunteers, and supporters! Your continued dedication to conquering childhood cancer helps spread awareness and brings us one step closer to prevailing for the kids! More events are held by alumni everywhere...please send us your event details, so we can help promote and spread the word about your success! Stay in touch and register your event with regional events chairperson Emily Greenberg at regionalevents@dmaig.org.

four for a cure -ftk, sara firestone

On behalf of the Four Diamonds Fund, I would like to thank all DMAIG members for your continued commitment to the Four Diamonds Fund, our patients, and their families. You are an integral part of the success of THON, the Four Diamonds Fund, and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital!

The 2008 fiscal year was a tremendous one for the Four Diamonds Fund. The incredible success of THON 2008 and the growth of the middle and high school mini-THON program helped raise more than \$7 million...That's an increase of \$1 million from last year!

During the 2007-2008 school year, 39 schools participated in mini-THONs and raised more than \$692,000! We are seeing an increase in the number of Philadelphia area schools who are participating in the mini-THON program and we appreciate the support of DMAIG members in helping us steward these schools. Penridge High School completed its second mini-THON this year and will be hosting the 2009 Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils Conference. The host school is asked to select a charity for all Pennsylvania schools to support and Penridge has selected the Four Diamonds Fund. They will be encouraging schools across Pennsylvania to hold mini-THONs at their school through next November.

We're also excited to announce the creation of a \$5 million endowment for a Pediatric Cancer Experimental Therapeutics Program at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. The goal is to increase this endowment to \$10 million during the next three to five years.

The mission of the new program is to increase the cure rate and reduce side effects of cancer treatment for children. The program will promote and facilitate development of new therapies from the laboratory to the clinic for these children. This will include identifying

new targets for drugs to treat childhood malignancies, the development of new drugs and other therapies directed to those targets, and clinical research studies to test new drugs and experimental approaches.

The Experimental Therapeutics Program endowment will complement the research programs supported through the Four Diamonds Pediatric Cancer Research endowment, particularly its translational function in bringing laboratory-based research to clinical research studies. The director of the Experimental Therapeutics Program will be appointed by Barbara Miller, MD, chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and will work with Dr. Miller to coordinate efforts within the various pediatric cancer research endowments.

Dr. Miller stated, "We are very excited about this program. Over the next five to ten years, work supported by this endowment will allow researchers to develop and provide innovative new therapies to improve the outcomes and cures of pediatric cancer patients treated at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, as well as throughout the country."

Without the tremendous support of THON, the Four Diamonds Fund would not be able to provide superior care, comprehensive support, and innovative research. Through new programs such as the Experimental Therapeutics Program, we are confident that the research being conducted will make a difference as we aim to conquer childhood cancer.

On behalf of the many families supported by the Four Diamonds Fund each year, thank you for all of your efforts in supporting THON and the Four Diamonds Fund. Your continued support is incredible and we applaud your efforts and staying connected with THON! ♦

continued from "looking back..."

I am looking forward to this THON season as we see the hard work of thousands of Penn State students all year long, culminating in one spectacular weekend of celebration of a job well done. We wish them the best as they work tirelessly for the kids. With our support, they will know that they and the families are not alone in this fight, and they never will be. Please join us as we keep the promise we made as students to conquer pediatric cancer! ♦

continued from "...and roaring forward"

and brainstorming sessions with the BJC staff to enhance the THON weekend experience for dancers and visitors alike. This year, THON is looking forward to strengthening our bond with DMAIG as we work towards our shared goal of discovering a cure for pediatric cancer. Despite the strides that we have made toward finding a cure, cancer remains the leading cause of death from disease in children—more than asthma, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, and AIDS combined. THON's support has made it possible for the Four Diamonds Fund to assist more than 2,000 children and their families. As THON and DMAIG continue to grow, the Four Diamonds Fund can continue fulfilling its mission of conquering childhood cancer by providing comprehensive support, and innovative research to the kids and their families. One day we'll dance for joy, but until then we'll continue to dance for a cure. Thank you for your support and I look forward to DMAIG participation at all THON events! ♦

class notes -ftk, stacy forbes

Thanks to all who replied to my recent request for an update. I have tried to include as much information as I was able, separated by year of graduation. It was great hearing from you! Please feel free to email any future updates to vp@dmaig.org, and I will save them for the next newsletter. Thanks!

'70s

Larry Moore (THON DJ; Dancer 1977) This is my ? THON... You figure it out! What's new? THON 2009! I am so excited for THON 2009! The student volunteers are fantastic. I truly love each and every one of them! We have tons of THON events scheduled this year and they get better and better thanks to alumni who have built the foundation for continued success!

'80s

Lori Riesenfeld Dabrow's (1981) son graduated Penn State in spring 2008, and she has a daughter who now is a sophomore.

Steve Amend (Alpha Sig/ASA THON Co-Chair 1984, 1985) has fond memories of serving as co-chair for Alpha Sig/ASA in 1984, when they were the second place winners, and then again in 1985, when they were the first place winners. In the end, they learned that the kids were the real winners. He is now employed by Dell, Inc., in channel sales for the health care and life sciences division. He can be reached at 300 Clymer Avenue, Morrisville, PA 19067 and luvyalions@yahoo.com.

Kristen Kaminski Fortney (1988) was married October 2007. She is now Kristen McMullen and is living in Summerville, SC, serving as director of advancement for Pinewood Preparatory School. She serves on the Penn State Alumni Council and is on the board of directors of the Charleston Alumni Chapter.

Due to the acquisition of his company by a new parent company, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, **Rich Kuegler** (1989) now has a new email address: rkuegler@mdsolutions.com.

'90s

Diana (Wolf) Hirsch (Morale Committee 1990, 1992; Dancer 1991) is living in Canton, MI working at the University of Michigan. She can be reached at diwolf@aol.com.

Kelly Poff Salzmans (Dancer 1992; ZTA fundraiser) has fond memories of dancing in 1992, as it was the first year that ZTA/ATO broke into the "Top Three" of fundraisers. She lives in Ashburn, VA, and has been married to Kirk Salzmans, a University of Massachusetts graduate, for six years. She currently works as an attorney with the Social Security Administration in Falls Church, VA. This past spring she was so excited to see canners in the area and made sure to call everyone she knew so they could drive by and make donations. She can be reached at 20981 Deer Run Way, Ashburn, VA 20147.

Jennifer Sprankle (Dancer 1992) received her MSN from Villanova University in 2000 and is now a performance improvement coordinator for the cardiovascular service line at St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network. She is the president-elect, of the College of Health and Human Development Alumni Society board of directors. She is a road cycling enthusiast (recovering from a broken back!), and she is the secretary of the Lehigh Wheelmen. She is a photography nut, loves black and white photography, and hopes to hike in Machu Picchu next year.

Michelle Hanau DeKoven (Dancer 1994; Chi Omega THON Chair 1993; Morale Committee 1992) recently moved, and her new address is 3007 Heritage Farm Court, Oak Hill, VA 20171. She had a baby girl, Avery Grace, in October! She started a new position at the Nature Conservancy as director of finance and operations.

Christine Madden Papadopoulos (Dancer 1996; Overall Social Chair 1995; Social Committee 1994) has temporarily relocated to New York for two years for work. She and her husband, Alex, welcomed a baby girl, Katherine, on October 17.

Speaking of babies, the 1995 overall committee continues to have baby fever, and it seems to be the year for girls...

Rob Carter (Overall ICC Chair 1995) and his wife, Jessica, welcomed a baby girl, Ava Clare, on July 30.

Diane Gebicki Yingling (Overall Public Relations Chair 1995) and her husband, Mike, welcomed a baby girl, Anne Grace, on July 20.

And **Dave Lorenzo** (Overall Family Relations Chair 1995; OPP Captain 1994) and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Morgan Noelle, on August 22.

Dave Dorenfeld (Overall Marketing Chair 1995; ICC Captain 1994) and his wife, Dana, welcomed their second child, Kate Ella, on September 10. She joins big sister Emily.

In other 1995 Committee news, **Amy Vanderwall Musick** (Overall Morale 1995) recently completed her doctorate in education and was married in May to husband, Dan.

Marc Chrencik (1996) just moved from Jacksonville, FL, to New Hope, PA, and has a new job with wind turbine manufacturer Gamesa. While at Penn State, he was involved with family relations and sponsored the Madison Hurley family. He is looking forward to being able to attend THON in the future.

Deborah McCarty can now be reached at 3926 New Garden Park, Greensboro, NC 27410.

'00s

Jeff Tranell (Rules and Regulations Captain 1999) is a sixth

Do you want to Dance in THON 2009?

Relive the magic of dancing, or **experience** it for the first time.

Capture the **energy** and **passion** of THON and dance as one of the alumni couples.

Fundraising is underway, and the couples who raise the most money will be awarded the opportunity to dance in THON 2009.

The money raised by those people not selected for dancing will be donated to THON in the name of DMAIG.

For more information, or for resources to aid your fundraising efforts, contact

Jennifer Cohen at dancercouple@dmaig.org and visit www.DMAIG.org/involved/dance.

grade teacher at Park Forest Middle School. He and his wife, **Jennifer Bauer** (2003) had a son, Nathaniel, on April 9, 2008.

Jessica Hilderbrand (2002) has moved from Dallas, TX, to a small town in southeast Missouri. Since arriving in there, she has opened her own design studio, as she has wanted to do for years. She designs an array of items for people, companies, nonprofits, etc. She works on projects large and small and is always looking forward to working with fellow PSU groups, students, and alumni. She can be reached at 3 Mary Anna Lane, East Prairie, MO 63845 and jessica@110mediadesign.com. Her company website is www.110mediadesign.com.

Amy Iacone (Dancer 2000) is currently living and working in Pittsburgh, PA, and working with DMAIG to help plan events in the Pittsburgh area to fundraise and to raise awareness of THON. She can be reached at amykiacone@gmail.com.

Merritt Swallow McGlynn (Rules and Regulations Captain 2002; Dancer 2001) married Rich McGlynn in December 2007 and relocated to Lawrenceville, NJ, last year. She is working as a lead project engineer specializing in air quality for an environmental consulting firm in the greater Philadelphia area, ALL4 Inc. They are expecting their first baby in early February 2009. She can be reached at merritt.mcglynn@gmail.com.

Rebekah Norton (Dancer 2003; OPP Captain 2002, 2001) has a new email address: rebekahnorton@hotmail.com.

Jim Scianna (Dancer 2004, 2001; Organizational Chair 2002-04) married **Janine Fisler** (2004 PSU graduate) on May 31, 2008, and he is taking over as operations officer for the Naval Ice Center in Suitland, MD. They can be reached at 1214 Colonial Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314 and james.scianna@gmail.com.

Gia Kornet (Dancer 2005; THON Chair for PSN-TV's Academic Integrity 2005) has been working over the past year as an associate producer on various television shows. She has been involved in casting the CBS game show, *Power of 10*, hosted by Drew Carey and season two of *Tim Gunn's Guide to Style*. She is currently working on casting two new series for MTV. She can be reached at gia.kornet@gmail.com.

Laura Simon (PR Captain 2005; Finance Committee 2004; Communications Committee 2003) completed her MA in teaching from Mount St. Mary's University.

Kristina Verzella (Alpha Phi Omega THON Chair 2005; Dancer 2004) finds it hard to believe that it has been four years since she danced in THON. It is by far the most memorable moment that she has from her four years at Penn State. She hopes that one year, she can come back and dance as an alumna. She recently helped to open Focus Fitness of the Main Line, which is a small yoga studio in Bryn Mawr, PA. Her hope is to run a fundraiser for THON at the studio! She can be reached at 113 Plant Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087 and kverzella@gmail.com.

Meghan Dowd (Morale Committee 2006) recently moved to New Jersey to work for The Seeing Eye. She can be reached at 83 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 and prettypeaches5@hotmail.com.

Lindsey K. Impagliazzo (Rules and Regulations Captain 2006; Rules and Regulations Committee 2005) dropped everything and accepted a job offer in California! And she's glad she did: As it turns out her future husband was out there waiting for her! She is engaged to be married on June 19, 2009.

Alyssa McMann Key (Morale Committee 2005; Dancer 2004)

married Andrew Key on June 2, 2007. They live in their hometown, Bellwood, PA. She now works for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Blair County. She can be reached at akey426@gmail.com.

Kristyn M. Babiak (Special Events Captain 2007; Special Assistants Captain and Entertainment Captain 2006; Morale Committee 2005, Rules and Regulations Committee 2004) and her college sweetheart, **Jared King**, are engaged as of her birthday, June 26, 2008. Their wedding date is September 4, 2010.

Heather Buzby (Morale Committee 2007, 2006) has taken a position as an ocean export specialist at Barthco International at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, PA.

Kirsten Dennis moved and can be reached at 3799 Millennia Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32839 and kirstendennis@gmail.com.

Michelle Kelly Lagola (Dancer 2007) married **Ryan Lagola** (Dancer 2007) on August 16, 2008! They can be reached at 4280 Mazarin Place, Apartment 202, Fairfax, VA 22033.

Amanda Markel (Communications and Morale Committees) can be reached at 504 Kingsland Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071.

Nicole Quirk (Morale Committee 2007; Dancer 2007) has a new job at Sutton Public Relations. She can be reached at 755 South Randolph Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

Briana Schmidt (Dancer 2007; OPP Captain 2006, 2005) recently married **Michael Ewing** (OPP committee 2006, 2005) on July 12, 2008. She is a senior transportation analyst for VWR International, and Michael is a corrections officer at the Chester County Prison. They can be reached at 102 Hampshire Court, West Chester, PA 19380 and brs204@gmail.com.

Nikki Kemper (Hospitality and Morale Committees 2008) recently relocated to Newark, DE, for a job.

Mike Petrasek (Overall Public Relations Chair 2008) recently accepted a position with Brunner Inc. as an account coordinator in their public relations department.

Shana Saquella (Dancer 2008; Morale Committee 2007; Penn State Berks THON Committee 2005, 2004) resides and works in Warminster, PA. She can be reached at ssaquella@yahoo.com.

Megan Simpson (Dancer 2008; Public Relations Committee 2008; Morale Committee 2006) moved to DC, attending George Washington University for her MA in political management.

Andrea Stewart (Dancer 2008; OPP Captain 2007) has been teaching fifth and sixth grade in New Orleans East in Louisiana since August and has been enjoying the excitement and challenges that it brings. She can be reached at 811 Burdette Street, New Orleans, LA 70118 and andrealynnstewart@gmail.com. She thinks about THON often and hopes that she will make it back for THON weekend!

Laura Szkudlapski (Morale Committee) got a job teaching seventh grade English at Southern Middle School in York, PA. As a result, she also moved to West York, PA. She can be reached at laurab786@aol.com.

Christina Vogl is living in DC and can be reached at cevogl@gmail.com.

Dan Heist has gone back to school for his MA in Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). It's a great program focused on the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. Anyone who would like more info, feel free to contact him at dheist@iupui.edu.



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