MICHAEL J. CARROLL ’04

Biographical Sketch

Michael J. Carroll is a Professional Engineer with Black & Veatch in Arlington, Virginia. He seeks election as an alumni member of the Board of Trustees for the first time in 2012.

As an undergraduate studying Architectural Engineering, Mr. Carroll served his fellow students first as a representative to and later as president of the West Halls Residence Halls Association. Mr. Carroll was a member of the Association of Residence Hall Students and an Undergraduate Student Government elections commissioner. Mr. Carroll also served as a Morale committee member for Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON). While completing his design thesis, Michael continued his involvement with THON, serving as a Morale Captain for THON 2004: Always Believing.

Since his graduation in 2004, Mr. Carroll has been an active member of the Metro Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association. He was first elected to the Chapter’s Board of Directors in 2006. He has been a member of the Chapter’s Board or a Chapter officer continuously since that time. From 2009 to 2011, Mr. Carroll led the Chapter as its President. During his presidency, Mr. Carroll oversaw the chapter’s fundraising to endow scholarships for students from the chapter’s geographic area and to support THON. As Chapter Treasurer, Mr. Carroll remains active with the chapter’s current efforts supporting tornado relief in Alabama; the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network; and several local charities.

Raised in the Pittsburgh area, Michael Carroll now resides in Fairfax, Virginia.

Position Statement

Just like you, I watched these past few months unfold with disbelief and shock: disbelief that something so egregious could befall the University we each hold dear to our hearts, and in shock that those in control, to those whom we instill our trust to run the institution, could fail in their leadership, their societal responsibilities and their commitments to uphold the ideals of the University.

Building upon the values instilled by my family, Penn State formed me into the man I am today. My education, leadership, philanthropic mindset, professional career and life-long friendships all come from my time spent at Dear Old State. Many people positively impacted my life through Penn State. Every day I try to give back to the University so others may share that same wonderful experience.

Many Penn Staters question the board’s ability to lead. I’m not running to overhaul the Board of Trustees. Certainly, their job is not an easy one. However, it is critical for it to be done well. Although the Trustees may have a vision for the University, there are fundamental issues that they have not addressed internally. Recent events prove that the board is not prepared to respond to a crisis. Without strong leadership, the University as a whole may not learn from these mistakes and our PSU community will be left questioning whether we can overcome future challenges. Therefore, if elected, I intend to fix these leadership shortcomings and reinstall trust in our board.