GEORGE T. HENNING, JR. ’63

Biographical Sketch

A native of Reading, Pennsylvania, George earned his B.A. from the College of Liberal Arts in 1963 and MBA from Harvard in 1965. His leadership positions included Student Government Assembly and president of Men’s Residence Council. George's academic and leadership accomplishments were recognized with memberships in Lion's Paw, Omicron Delta Kappa and Skull & Bones. He served two terms on Alumni Council and was active in alumni chapters in Boston, Pittsburgh, Houston, Cleveland and State College. George served Penn State as an Alumni-elected member of the Board of Trustees from July 2004 through June 2010 where he was Vice Chair of the Committee on Finance & Physical Plant.

George's business experience includes executive positions at five publicly traded companies. He was recruited from retirement in 2009 and served as Interim CEO and President of Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., Pekin, IL through March 2010.

George and his wife Sue (’63HEc) reside in State College. They co-chaired their class’s 40th and 45th Reunions and participate in many Penn State alumni, cultural and support groups. They enjoy extensive interaction with many student groups on campus and were recently named Honorary Lion Ambassadors. USA Today, the magazines W, and Town&Gown, You Tube and WPSU-TV have featured their Penn State spirit and memorabilia collection. They are members of the President's Club, Mt. Nittany Society and Nittany Lion Club and are Alumni Association Life Members. George’s leadership on non-profit boards has included the Renaissance Scholarship Fund, Schlow Centre Region Library, and Penn State All-Sports Museum.

Position Statement

“Restoring Honor and Glory, Respecting Traditions” will be my goals as an Alumni-elected Trustee. Our Alma Mater has experienced an extremely difficult period. Mistakes occurred during the unfolding of events and reverberations will continue in the coming months. We must never forget those hurt in the events leading up to and during these recent months and appropriately acknowledge them.

“Restoring honor and glory, respecting tradition” affects the whole University and not only athletics. The Board oversees a budget of over $4 billion and 40,000 employees. Looking forward, our Board needs strong, experienced and knowledgeable leaders with Penn State loyalty and spirit in order to set goals, question policy and guide the administration for all University endeavors. The Board must permanently interact with alumni, faculty and students providing a constant interchange of ideas and views.

I have unique qualifications to understand the operation of our complex University and to provide leadership in implementing change. I am a loyal and spirited alum with proven leadership and daily interaction with alumni, students and faculty. I am committed to devoting the significant time, energy and expertise required to serve as an active and informed Trustee.

The next few years are going to be very important as the University is faced with many additional issues declining state support, maintaining affordable education for residents of Pennsylvania, reviewing board structure and governance and selecting a new president in 2014 among the most important. With your input and support I will represent you with wisdom and spirit.