Biographical Sketch

Matthew A. Bird is a Project Controls Manager with Bechtel Power Corporation in Frederick, Maryland. For more than 31-years, he has been involved with various elements of major project cost, planning, and scheduling in both the field and home office. He has used his project controls expertise to provide technical guidance, training, auditing, and resource support; interpret and execute technical standards, guidelines, and procedures for cost engineering and planning and scheduling activities; and train and supervise others in the performance of normal project controls functions. A 1980 Bachelor of Science graduate in Civil Engineering, his career includes work on construction of major power plant projects in Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, California and Taiwan. He has also worked on environmental cleanup at both a Superfund site in New Jersey and a nuclear waste remediation project in Tennessee. Mr. Bird is presently responsible for all financial and planning aspects of the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Facility, the largest concentrated solar power project in the United States.

Matthew is a lifetime member of the Penn State Alumni Association and a member of the Nittany Lion Club. He is a past member of the St Francis Xavier Building Committee and Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Committee. He is an avid golfer, likes to read novels and travel.

Matthew, his wife Lesa (1980 Biology), and son Casey reside in Gettysburg PA. Their son Matthew (2008 BLA), a project manager with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, and daughter Kelly (2009 CE), a civil engineer with STV Inc., both reside in New York City.

Position Statement

"Believe deep down in your heart that you are destined to do great things." This is one of my favorite quotes from the late Joseph Vincent Paterno. We do not have to look far to see his inspiration. It is you and I and those students who are being enriched everyday throughout the Commonwealth at campuses of The Pennsylvania State University. Fabulous people who are now doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers and scientists have all accomplished these great things with the foundation of Penn State. And we have to look no further than the floor of the Bryce Jordan Center to see great things accomplished by our students at THON. I have also had the pleasure of successfully recruiting these students for employment at Bechtel Corporation and watched their own accomplishments with pride.

My pride and passion for this institution is boundless. This passion now compels me to seek a position as an alumni member on the Board of Trustees. As we make our way through a difficult period, it is important to maintain that passion. I can assure you that I will not lose mine. My personal inspiration is manifested in my wife and children who are fellow alums and my youngest son who is on the doorstep of his freshman year. I am committed to them and all Penn Staters everywhere as we move forward. It would be an absolute honor to represent you on the Board. Thank you for your consideration.