



MARTA PEPE FORNEY '00

Biographical Sketch

Marta Pepe Forney, a New Jersey native and now proud Pennsylvanian, graduated with a BS in Kinesiology from the College of Health and Human Development in 2000. She then went on to the University of Delaware to earn her Masters of Physical Therapy in 2002. While at Penn State, Marta served as a member of the Lion Ambassadors, a group which communicates Penn State's history and personality, strengthens University traditions, and instills Penn State pride in current and future students, alumni and friends. Marta was appointed treasurer of the organization her senior year. She was also a heptathlete and pole vaulter for the Lady Lion track team where she earned multiple Academic All Big Ten honors and was inducted into Spiritus Leoninus.

Marta is a physical therapist in hospital and skilled nursing settings working with patients towards their functional goals following cardiopulmonary, neurological or orthopedic illness. She also volunteers her time to Doylestown Nursing Mothers Advisory Council, a group dedicated to providing free support and counseling to new mothers. Marta is no stranger to fund raising for worthy charities in her local area.

A life member of the Alumni Association, Varsity S Club and Nittany Lion Club, Marta lives in Doylestown, PA with her husband, Travis '00, a former Academic All American for Penn State Football, and their two daughters, Elliot and Mia.

Position Statement

As a Lion Ambassador, I had the privilege of promoting our campus to prospective students. It was an easy job; our campus, academics, athletics and pride all exuded excellence. However, in light of recent events, conveying to others that WE ARE still PENN STATE, with values and excellence they expect, may prove a more difficult task.

As a middle-class professional from a relatively young generation, I represent a large, disenfranchised group of alumni. I bring diversity to the board being personally concerned with the costs of college for families, especially those in Pennsylvania. The affordability of a Penn State education compared with other states is not in step with the income of Pennsylvanians which is why we must work towards lower tuition rates. Additionally, significant state funding cuts are forcing us to become more dependent on endowments, which are in jeopardy if we cannot bring focus back to the core values of excellence, and away from the processes which led our school down a path with which few agreed. Though board decisions rest on the majority, why is it we don't know how each member votes and how decisions are reached? It's important that the board have input from constituents and greater transparency to regain the trust of students, staff, alumni and public.

I was democratically nominated onto this ballot; I hope to practice that same democracy as a member of the board.