

Architectural Engineering



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All in the Family

The Nittany Lion Shrine on campus (cover photo) has a new look thanks in part to AE alumni brothers, **Sean** ('07g) and **Shane** ('10) **Flynn** and their PA based family business, Flynn Stone Design and Fabrication Company. The project consisted of a new stone base for the lion sculpture which was conceived as a mountain outcrop. Nearly 90 tons of local stone from surrounding mountains, including Mount Nittany, was placed to create a mountain environs for the lion. In addition, 12' x 4.5' natural landing steps were designed and constructed with bluestone provided by Flynn Stone Company. New sidewalks, and a sloped ramp were also created to provide full accessibility for visitors to the famous Penn State landmark. Sean said the company was "very hands-on with the project working with the Office of the Physical Plant and the mason Phil Hawk. As alumni of this great institution, it is an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to leave our mark and give back to the university that has given so much to us and the community."

Flynn Stone has been involved in several other projects on campus including the generous donation of the stone for the construction of the Michael J. Horman Memorial project at the MorningStar solar home. The site honors AE Professor **Michael Horman** who passed away in 2009, and includes an outdoor BBQ station, flagstone paving, and a custom fire pit with stone bench seating as an area for the community and students to learn and utilize for years to come.

Sean said, "We started our family company when I was 12 years old stacking field stone and we stumbled onto a quarry on our property. We opened the quarry when I was in high school and my family started a fabrication shop and the company was born - Flynn Stone Company. My brother and I ventured to our nation's capital to partner up and work with Balfour Beatty and Lorton Stone respectively on significant landmark design and construction projects."

Sean recently finished the restoration of the famed National Gallery of Art East Building designed by world renowned architect I.M. Pei. The project involved restoration of over 17,000 stone panels which was the largest stone project in DC at the time. His brother Shane is currently working at the iconic Washington Monument project leading the charge to restore the monument due to the earthquake damage. Other notable projects the Flynn family has been directly involved in the DC area include the U.S. Capital, U.S. Supreme Court, World War I Memorial, Lincoln Memorial Reflection Pool, German Embassy, Long Bridge Park, Arlington National Cemetery, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and Georgetown University.

Over the years, the Flynn's have also worked on custom stone projects at the Texas ranch and homes of former President George Bush and wife Laura. Recently, they made custom benches - one was a rocking bench with a hand carved Presidential Seal, and the other was a custom rock faced bench with the hand carved words 'Bold. Decisive. Resolve. Leadership. - Commander in Chief.'

Flynn Stone Company has grown over the years from a hard-working Pennsylvania bluestone operation to a full scale design and fabrication company achieving international prominence in the global building community. After winning best in show in recent years at the Philadelphia Flower Show with exhibit 'Rose of Glendalough', the Flynn's were invited to the international stage at the Singapore Garden Festival. The Flynn's exhibit with partner Celtic Gardens won Gold for fantasy garden exhibition. Thousands of people from across the world visited the exhibit and the Prime Minister of Singapore viewed the exhibit as a work of art in bringing the influences of the western hemisphere to the shores of the great Lion City. The Flynn's also captured the minds of audiences at the World Garden Festival in Nagasaki, Japan with their sign of peace in remembrance of the anniversary of the bombings dropped in Japan in WW2.

For more on the Flynn Family, visit www.flynnstonerocks.com



Lion Shrine Image: Laura Stocker Waldhiser



Michael J. Horman Memorial



World Garden Festival—Nagasaki, Japan



Singapore Garden Festival



Sean Flynn at the National Gallery of Art East Building Stone Restoration Project



Sean Flynn, former President George Bush, Shane Flynn



Shane Flynn (right) at the top of the Washington Monument

