

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **Penn State Homecoming Unveils 2017 Theme, “Embrace the Journey, Roar with Pride”**

*The Homecoming Executive Committee revealed their 2017 Theme at THON*

State College, Pa. (Feb. 18, 2017) — The Homecoming Executive Committee revealed the theme for Homecoming 2017 to be “Embrace the Journey, Roar with Pride” during the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance MaraTHON. After much anticipation, the 2017 Theme was revealed at 11:30 a.m on the event stage.

The reveal was preceded by the top three performances of the 2016 For The Glory Talent Show, which took place during Homecoming Week 2016. The acts included performances from Lion Ambassadors, Phi Sigma Sigma & Theta Delta Chi, as well as Reve & Alpha Delta Phi. Immediately following the performances, Homecoming 2017 Executive Director Jillian Susi introduced each member of the Homecoming Executive Committee as they took the stage.

The Executive Committee, along with an “at capacity” BJC then turned to watch the 2017 Theme Reveal video. At the end of the video, the Directors lifted a large banner displaying the new theme.

“We are excited to finally share the 2017 Theme with the entire Penn State community. By doing so we are also able to share the message behind the Theme. Penn State students come from different backgrounds and have their own Penn State journeys, but nevertheless we are all Penn Staters and come together to celebrate our shared pride in our university. We are Blue and White for life.” said Anuja Jonnalagadda, Royalty Director for Penn State Homecoming 2017.

The Executive Committee created and selected the theme this past December – taking the Directors several hours to determine a Theme that exemplified and represented Penn State and Homecoming.

“I was very excited once we came to a final agreement and could not wait to share the Theme with everyone. By choosing the Theme, I felt like our Penn State legacy as an Executive Committee was finally starting to form. As an Executive Committee we hope to leave our mark on Penn State and give back to the university that has given us so many opportunities. I am so happy that we are now able to share our 2017 Homecoming Theme with the entire Penn State community.” said Bailey Gibson, University Relations Director.

When asked about the 2017 Theme, Executive Director, Jillian Susi stated, “After the Theme was picked, I felt incredibly proud. Proud to be a part of Penn State, of Homecoming, and proud of the Executive Committee for working together to develop such an all encompassing, great theme. I love this year's theme. I think it truly encompasses Homecoming and Penn State, and that is my favorite part about it. All Penn Staters have different journeys that lead us here, as well as different experiences once we get to Penn State. Even though we are all unique, we are bonded in the immense pride we have for our university.”

“Penn State offers many incredible opportunities to students and alumni alike. Each year I’ve been able to find something new to get involved in and new opportunities to take advantage of. Like many other students, I have been on my own journey here at Penn State that has lead me to where I feel I belong. I

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am very proud to be a part of Penn State. ‘Embrace the Journey, Roar with Pride’ means celebrating all of our journeys and our pride in Penn State.” said Kara Fickinger, Distribution Management Director.

The Homecoming Executive Committee is excited to continue their hard work and dedication in making Homecoming 2017 a success.

When asked about her experience with the Homecoming Executive Committee, Competition Director Jamie Letender stated, “My experience has been incredibly rewarding so far. Each day I see my fellow Directors’ impact on the university as well as my own. As a Committee we hope to positively impact the Penn State community by helping to grow Penn State Homecoming as well as continue to spread Penn State pride.”

Penn State Homecoming’s 7th Annual Legacy Celebration is set to occur on Wednesday, April 26, in the HUB. Days prior to this event, the Homecoming Executive Committee will reveal the 2017 Homecoming Logo at the Blue and White Football game on Saturday, April 22. This year Penn State Homecoming is excited to be partnering with the Penn State Military Appreciation Committee during Homecoming Week 2017. The 2017 Penn State Homecoming and Military Appreciation Weeks will both begin on Sunday, November 5, culminating in the Homecoming and Military Appreciation Football Game falling on Saturday, November 11 against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights in Beaver Stadium.

### **About Us**

Penn State Homecoming is a student-run organization with aims to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty and staff across the community. Our organization is comprised of many student volunteers who donate their time to creating a multitude of events that make the Homecoming celebration a yearlong event.

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