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Penn State Homecoming Announces Newly Elected 2013 Emcees
The student body has voted Ali Zortman and John Patterson to represent Homecoming

State College, Pa. (Mar. 27, 2013) — After an extensive interview process and weeklong effort of promotions and online voting, Penn State students Ali Zortman and John Patterson were surprised with the news that they had been selected by their fellow student body as Penn State Homecoming's 2013 Emcees Wednesday afternoon.

"The emcees play a huge role in the week because they really embody what Penn State spirit is," Allison Konners, director of production said. "The emcees remind everyone why we are doing what we are doing, and why we give one week a year to celebrate how great Penn State is and give back."

The selection of Homecoming Emcees first involved prospective students filling out an application, and then proceeding to be interviewed by the script writing/emcee Homecoming production captains. From there, the top two male and female candidates were chosen and their audition videos were uploaded to YouTube for the student body to view before being able to cast their online votes. Voting was available on elections.psu.edu from March 20th until March 26th.

Gabrielle Chappell, one of the script writing/emcee captains, said that some determining factors in their decision were how devoted the candidates were to Penn State and Homecoming, as well as how easily they could express themselves. However, it was not just standout individual characteristics that were desired.

"Another crucial aspect of our decision was finding people that had chemistry and the ability to keep the crowd alive. We didn't need two individuals. We needed a team," Chappell said. Luckily enough, the newly elected 'team' of Ali Zortman and John Patterson is exactly what Chappell had in mind.

A native of Pittsburgh, Ali Zortman is a sophomore majoring in finance and broadcast journalism. Besides her newly elected Emcee position, she serves as an anchor for PSN TV, and is a member of the Presidential Leadership Academy and on the Morale Committee for the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon.

Zortman said that she was extremely excited and overwhelmed to find out she was selected to be an Emcee, and is especially looking forward to participating in the Homecoming Pep Rally.

"I really respect Homecoming as an organization, and I wanted to be the voice of Homecoming so I would have the power to put out a good name and vision for Penn State," Zortman said.

Her 'teammate' John Patterson, is a junior majoring in broadcast journalism from Bound Brook, New Jersey. He is a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity, as well as producer for COMM Radio. Like Zortman, he also served on a Morale committee for THON.

Patterson said that he was speechless and very flattered upon hearing the news of his newly elected position. He said he was also looking forward to his favorite event, the Homecoming Pep Rally, and is very excited to get started.

"Being an Emcee is a way that I can really leave my mark at Penn State," Patterson said. "I can't wait to see how I can add to it, and make this year the best Homecoming yet."

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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