

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Penn State Homecoming Announces 2019 Theme

**UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Feb. 16, 2019)** — The Homecoming Executive Committee revealed the theme for Homecoming 2019 to be “A Century of Stories” during the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance MaraTHON. After much anticipation, the 2019 Theme was revealed at 4:00 p.m on the event stage. ~~The reveal was preceded by the top three performances of the 2018 For The Glory Talent Show, which took place during Homecoming Week 2018. The acts included performances from Outcast Dance Team, KPMD, as well as The Coda Conduct. Immediately following the performances,~~ Homecoming 2019 Executive Director Isabella Webster 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 2019 Theme Reveal video. At the end of the video, the Directors lifted a large banner displaying the new theme. The Executive Committee worked to develop the following statement explaining this year’s theme while highlighting several past themes and Penn State Six Core Values:~~

*No matter who we are, where we come from, what we believe, what we look like, or how we identify, we all have a story. No matter how we got here or where we are going, our story shares a common bond. We all share the same pride. We all have the same integrity, same sense of respect, responsibility discovery, and excellence. We are all part of the same community. Every person has their own story to tell. While every story is unique, we all share one common thread - our alma mater. Our home. For the past 100 years, Penn State Homecoming has strived to help us remember the lion within. As we are bonded by blue and white, we remain forever lions with endless pride. Our glory has echoed on from past to present. Our generations have evolved but our tradition remains. Each one of us must honor that purpose and carry that pride. We can build a legacy that will shape the future so long as we embrace our unique journey and roar out with pride. The past 100 years have created timeless stories that serve as stepping stones for the next century. Different as our stories may be, Penn State serves as a formidable chapter in them all. We have all worked to guide state forward each and every day. For the past one-hundred years and for the next hundred to come, may we continue to live out and tell our century of stories.*

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Penn State Homecoming. As such, the Executive Committee intends to continue moving forward with prideful spirit; however, the Directors would also like to make a concerted effort to recognize all those who came before them. ~~University Relations Director, Isaac Messner, explains this year’s theme further stating, “A Penn State story can start anywhere. My parents met here at Penn State, they danced in THON, participated in Homecoming and made their own Penn State story. It is an honor to help celebrate “A Century of Stories” and to bring to light all~~

~~the happiness and experiences which stem from Penn State. I look forward to adding my own tale to our figurative book of Penn State stories and to making this centennial celebration the best Homecoming yet!"~~

~~Internal Development Director, Julia Greco, echoed this sentiment commenting, "I'm incredibly proud to be the first Penn Stater in my family and am equally excited to start creating a 'Penn State family' of my own. Whenever anyone asks me why I chose to come here, my only explanation is that, after visiting campus, I immediately knew this was the place for me: I knew this place would become my new home. I'm proud to be a part of Penn State and a member of Homecoming. During this centennial celebration, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the stores that came before mine while also looking towards the future knowing that many more Penn State stories will come after mine!"~~

~~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. Alongside this year's theme, the Homecoming Executive Committee looks forward to launching a campaign to feature a wide range of Penn State stories from students, alumni, faculty, staff, and at-large community members. More details regarding this campaign will be released in the coming months.~~

Penn State Homecoming 2019 will be held from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Events this year will include the Allen Street Jam, Dance Competition, Best of Penn State Carnival, For the Glory Talent Show, Past to Present Celebration, as well as several other festivities including the Homecoming 2019 Parade on Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>. The week will culminate with the Football Game against the Purdue University Boilermakers on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **About Penn State Homecoming**

Penn State Homecoming is a student - run organization that 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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