

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Penn State Homecoming Announces 2020 Court Nominees and an Update for the 2020 Grand Marshal and Honorary Grand Marshal**

**UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.** (Oct. 2, 2020) — The 2020 Homecoming Executive committee is pleased to announce the members of the 2020 Student, Graduate and University Court.

To be selected for the Homecoming Court, members must be nominated by the student body. Those nominated are invited to fill out an application. The Homecoming Executive Committee then reviewed applications from the nomination periods and selected the top 20 candidates who then interviewed with a Faculty and Staff Panel. The panel, made up of various Penn State faculty and staff members on a volunteer basis, selected the final 10 individuals who are now members of the 2020 Homecoming Student Court.

For University Court, applications are reviewed, and selections are made by a panel of Student Leaders. Graduate Court is selected by the Court Relations Committee based upon their applications.

Each court consists of individuals who are identified as well rounded, spirited Penn Staters who embody each of Penn State's six core values of: respect, integrity, responsibility, discovery, excellence and community. Reviewers consider each applicant's representation of the university core values.

### **The members of Student Court are:**

- Maddy Mitchell
  - Major: Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management
  - Involvement: Executive Director of the Council of Sustainable Leaders, organizer for the Sustainability Showcase Series, undergraduate student representative for College of Health and Human Development, Penn State Alternative Breaks program
- Sarah Hohman
  - Major: Health Policy and Administration
  - Involvement: THON, Camp Kesem, Lion's Pantry, Springfield
- Nina Trach
  - Major: Public Relations, Spanish
  - Involvement: Administrative Vice President of Lion Ambassadors, a Bellisario Fellow, Leadership JumpStart, THON, Schreyer Scholar, Paterno Fellow and New York Women in Communications Scholar
- Caitlyn Martin
  - Major: Engineering Science

- Involvement: Vice President for Finance on the Panhellenic Executive Council, Greek Life, THON
- Jacob Klipstein
  - Major: Political Science, History and Jewish studies
  - Involvement: President of the Penn State College Democrats, UPUA, Lion Caucus, and a student member of the Daily Collegian's Board of Directors.
- Jada Gilliam
  - Major: Communication Arts and Sciences, Public Relations
  - Involvement: President of Penn State Lion Scouts, THON
- Diego Santos
  - Major: Biochemistry and molecular biology
  - Involvement: Lions Ambassadors, Homecoming, Penn State Select Presidential Commission on Racism, Bias, and Community Safety
- Jona Hall
  - Major: Digital Journalism
  - Involvement: Student Ambassador, member of the Alumni Association, serve on the Student Affairs committee for World Campus Student Government Association, THON, and President and founder of Zeta Mu Phi
- Adeline Mishler
  - Major: Business Management
  - Involvement: Chair of the Student Life Committee in UPUA, the University Park Student Fee Board Steering Committee, the Executive Board of Lion Caucus, Delta Sigma Pi.

**The members of Graduate Court are:**

- Claire Kelling
  - Education: Fifth-year PhD Candidate pursuing a dual PhD in statistics and social data analytics with a graduate minor in computational sciences
  - Involvement: Student Body President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association, Chair of the University Park Student Fee Board, Statistics Climate and Diversity Committee, Anti-Racism Working Group
- Latisha Franklin
  - Education: Fifth-year year PhD Candidate in the biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular biology
  - Involvement: Recipient of the Bunton-Waller Fellowship, Sloan Minority PhD Program Scholarship, and 2019 Eberly College of Science Climate and Diversity Award winner

**The members of University Court are:**

- Cindy Guthrie

- Position: Teacher in the Penn State Kinesiology Department
- Involvement: Volunteer advisor with Penn State Christian Athletes
- Zack Moore
  - Position: Vice President for Government & Community Relations
  - Involvement: Created an undergraduate internship in the Office of Government and Community Relations, founder of Lion Caucus
- Kelly Karpa
  - Position: Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Assistant Dean of Interprofessional Education at the College of Medicine in Hershey
  - Involvement: Josiah Macy Faculty Scholar, Academy of Pharmacology Educators fellow, National Pharmacology Educator Award, Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Preceptor of the Year award
- Kristen Garrity
  - Position: Assistant Director of Student and Young Alumni Programs at the Penn State Alumni Association
  - Involvement: Penn State Lion Ambassadors
- Kyle Kaplan

In 2018, Penn State Homecoming eliminated the gendered titles of “Homecoming King and Queen” and took away the 1:1 ratio of male to female representation within the court. This change was made to embrace diversity and gender inclusivity within our community and is still the focus of Student and University Court for the 2020 Homecoming season.

As Student Court members, these outstanding students will have the opportunity to showcase their talents, participate in university-wide service, as well as engage and participate with each event occurring during Homecoming Week. Voting for Student Court will occur during Homecoming week and the two students with the highest number of votes will be recognized with the Guide State Forward Award.

This year, the Homecoming Executive Committee has decided not to select a Grand Marshal or Honorary Grand Marshal. Instead, an Alumni Panel featuring past Grand Marshals and Honorary Grand Marshals will be streamed via Homecoming’s social medias Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Homecoming 2020 will be celebrated from October 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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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