

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Penn State Homecoming Uncovers 2016 Theme, “Old State, Inspiring New Beginnings”

The Homecoming Executive Committee revealed their 2016 Theme at THON

State College, Pa. (Feb. 20, 2016) — The Homecoming Executive Committee revealed the theme for Homecoming 2016 to be “Old State, Inspiring New Beginnings.” After much anticipation, the theme was revealed at 11:25 a.m. at the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance maraTHON.

Prior to the reveal, the Homecoming performances at THON included the top three acts from the 2015 For The Glory Talent Show. The acts included performances by Atlas, Lion Ambassadors, and Orchestis and Kappa Simga. Immediately after, the Executive Director, Katie Gasior, 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 2016 Theme Reveal video. At the end of the video, the directors lifted a large banner displaying the new theme.

“I am excited to see the rest of Penn State’s reaction to the theme and hear what it means to members of the Penn State Community, because I think it is a theme that could relate to everyone” said Sarah London, Internal Development Director.

The 2016 Executive Committee created and selected the theme in December 2015 – taking the directors several hours to determine what they wanted the theme to exemplify.

“When we decided the theme the entire room just got quiet. All the side noise stopped, and we all just looked at each other...my heart started beating fast and I had this ridiculous grin because choosing the theme in itself was a New Beginning-for our Executive Committee, for Homecoming, and for each of us individually” said Maggie O’Brien, Competition Director.

When asked about her initial reaction in regards to the theme, Executive Director, Katie Gasior stated, “After hours of talking and debating and trying to put our ideas into words, I felt so proud of the committee and how they worked together to complete the task. It was a long process and was difficult at times, but it also was fun and a great way to see the direction the Homecoming Executive Committee wanted to take this year. I did get a little emotional just because it was the first thing that we had accomplished together, and it got me very excited for all that is to come this year”

“My favorite aspect of the theme is I feel everyone thinks something different when we hear it. Even though we are all at the same university we each have a different experience here and I think that is what the theme is encompassing-we all have different beginnings while instilling the traditions of Penn State, but the theme also touches upon the future and where each of us is going” said Shannon McConnell, Alumni Relations Director.

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The Penn State Homecoming theme is not just a theme reflecting the current Penn State community but also focuses on connecting the past and future members of Penn State.

Donor Relations Director, Jillian Susi wants the “Penn State community to know that the theme is supposed to mean something different for everyone. Every ‘Penn Stater’ has their own story and their own experiences and that’s what makes this school so special”

The Homecoming Executive Committee is excited to continue their hard work and dedication into making Homecoming 2016 a success.

When asked about her experience with the Homecoming Executive Committee, Barbara Inman stated, “My experience so far has been amazing. We bonded together as a team right from the beginning and have already become best friends. We all have one common goal: to continue making Penn State Homecoming more and more successful, which is something we have been working towards since the day were chosen”

Penn State Homecoming’s 6th Annual Legacy Celebration is set to occur on Wednesday, April 20, in the HUB. Days prior to this event, the Homecoming Executive Committee will reveal the logo for Homecoming 2016 at the Blue and White Football game on Saturday, April 16. Homecoming week begins on Sunday, October 2, with the Homecoming football game falling on Saturday, October 8.

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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