



## **Penn State Homecoming Unveils 2017 Grand Marshal**

*Penn State Homecoming announces the Grand Marshal for Homecoming 2017*

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Sept. 29 2017) —Penn State Homecoming announced John Urschel to be the Homecoming 2017 Grand Marshal on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 through the Homecoming social media platforms.

Each year the Homecoming Executive Committee selects a Grand Marshal to represent Penn State Homecoming and the surrounding community. This individual is someone who positively impacted Penn State during his or her time at the University and has carried that spirit with them beyond graduation. The Grand Marshal is someone who has made notable achievements within their field of study and career path and continues to represent the missions of Penn State Homecoming and the Penn State University in a positive light.

The selection of the Homecoming Grand Marshal is not a hasty decision. This process starts with the Homecoming Alumni Relations Director compiling a competitive list of notable and respected Penn State alumni who continue to make positive impacts in their respective fields. From there, the Homecoming Executive Committee works together to select the alumnus that best embodies Homecoming's mission to instill pride throughout the Penn State community.

Penn State Homecoming is thrilled to have '13 Penn State grad John Urschel join them as the Grand Marshal for 2017's Homecoming celebration. Urschel embodies the true spirit of a Nittany Lion.

Former Penn State football player John Urschel is a retired Baltimore Ravens NFL football player and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in mathematics at MIT. He began his academic journey completing his B.S. in Mathematics, with a minor in Statistics, at Penn State University in 2012, finishing with a 4.0 GPA. He then obtained his M.A. in Mathematics from Penn State in 2013.

“Penn State was a place where I not only found my love of mathematics but grew into the man I am today. If it wasn't for Penn State, I don't know where I would be today,” said Urschel.

Not only did John Urschel excel in his own classes, but during his time as a student Urschel also taught several mathematics courses at the university and published a number of peer-reviewed articles, all while playing on the Nittany Lions' offensive line. When asked about his favorite Penn State memory, Urschel was quick to respond, “Having the opportunity to teach in my final two years at Penn State, and interact with so many brilliant and talented students.”

Urschel served as the Student Marshal during the 2012 Mathematics graduation ceremony. During this same ceremony, Urschel was honored as the recipient of the 2013 William J.

Campbell trophy, which many refer to as the “academic Heisman”. As the country’s top amateur athlete, he was also the recipient of the 2014 James E. Sullivan award, among other numerous accolades and honors.

Excelling both in the classroom and on the football field during his time here at Penn State, Urschel is the embodiment of a true “student-athlete”. He is excited to return home to Penn State this November, and Penn State Homecoming is thrilled to welcome Mr. Urschel as the Penn State Homecoming 2017 Grand Marshal.

“I believe John reflects the hard work and dedication it takes to follow and achieve your dreams. He not only reached the highest level possible in his football career by playing in the NFL, but he did this all while working towards his Ph.D. in Mathematics at MIT. I cannot even fathom the time and dedication it would take to achieve these goals, but it goes to show that when you are truly passionate about something and willing to put in the work you can do anything,” said Homecoming Alumni Relations Director Emily Heere.

The 2017 Grand Marshal will be present at many Homecoming events and will be featured in the Homecoming Parade. The Homecoming Executive Committee will also recognize the Grand Marshal during the Homecoming football game to be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> against Rutgers University.

Students are encouraged to meet the 2017 Grand Marshal, John Urschel, at the Student-Alumni Ice Cream Social on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm prior to the Homecoming Parade. During the Ice Cream Social, students and alumni alike will have the chance to interact with the 2017 Grand Marshal as well as enjoy free Creamery ice cream!

## **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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