



## **2017 Homecoming Celebration to Include Graduate Student Court**

*With a new semester underway, Penn State Homecoming announces an exclusive opportunity to the Penn State community*

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA. (Sept. 1, 2017) — Penn State Homecoming is excited to announce a new addition to their 2017 Homecoming celebration. This year Penn State Homecoming will be adding a Graduate Student Court to their Royalty courts. The Royalty courts currently consist of a Student Court, University Court and an Alumni Court. This new venture will be the first addition to the courts since 2015, when the Alumni Court was added to the line up.

Penn State Homecoming is pleased to be working with the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GSPA) to select this year's inaugural court. "The Homecoming Executive Committee has been incredibly open to this idea from the beginning, and I truly want to thank them for their commitment to welcoming and celebrating all members of the Penn State community," shared Association President Matt Krott.

Krott continued, "Homecoming is a celebration of the pride that everyone feels from being part of the Penn State community. As teachers, mentors, researchers and as students, we [graduate and professional students] might feel that pride for many different reasons and display it in many different ways, but we feel it just the same. Adding graduate and professional students to the courts is a great way to recognize these students for the valuable and often unselfish service that many of them provide to our University."

The Homecoming Graduate Student Court will be comprised of one male and one female graduate student representative. These representatives should embody pillars of leadership, service and academic achievement. "When selecting court members, Royalty looks for individuals who aren't afraid to go above and beyond. These individuals should be active in spreading Penn State spirit and make impacts in their organizations and community," said Homecoming 2017 Royalty Director Anuja Jonnalagadda.

The Graduate Student Court is open to all graduate and professional students currently attending University Park. In order to be considered, interested parties must first fill out an online application. GSPA representatives will then review applications and offer interviews to viable candidates. Penn State faculty members will then interview candidates and select the Homecoming 2017 Graduate Student Court.

There are many benefits to being selected to serve on the Graduate Student Court. "Students serving on the inaugural Graduate Student Court will have the chance to learn even more about the University and the people who make it so special. Throughout their Homecoming experience, they will interact with countless individuals from many different parts of the University who all share the same passion for Penn State," explained Krott.

Those selected for the 2017 Graduate Student Court can be found at all Homecoming events wearing the traditional Court sashes displaying their titles. Court members will also be featured in the Homecoming Parade and recognized during the Homecoming Football Game to be held November 11<sup>th</sup> against Rutgers University.

Graduate Student Court applications are being accepted now through September 13<sup>th</sup> and can be found on the GPSA website at <http://gpsa.psu.edu/homecoming>. The Graduate Student Court will be announced later this month during Homecoming's annual "Court Crash". During this time, Homecoming representatives will surprise members of the Student, University and Graduate Student Courts throughout the day to honor them for their distinguished achievement.

Royalty Director Anuja Jonnalagadda and the Royalty Committee are thrilled to include the Graduate Student Court in this year's Homecoming celebration. Jonnalagadda added, "Homecoming, the Royalty Committee and the GSPA are very excited for this new court opportunity! It is inspiring to see all the awesome things these individuals have accomplished."

## **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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