

# DEAR OLD STATE

## Thousands return to Penn State for Homecoming



A student in a sumo wrestler costume walks with the Penn State Ohana THON committee during the parade. *Chloe Elmer/Collegian*

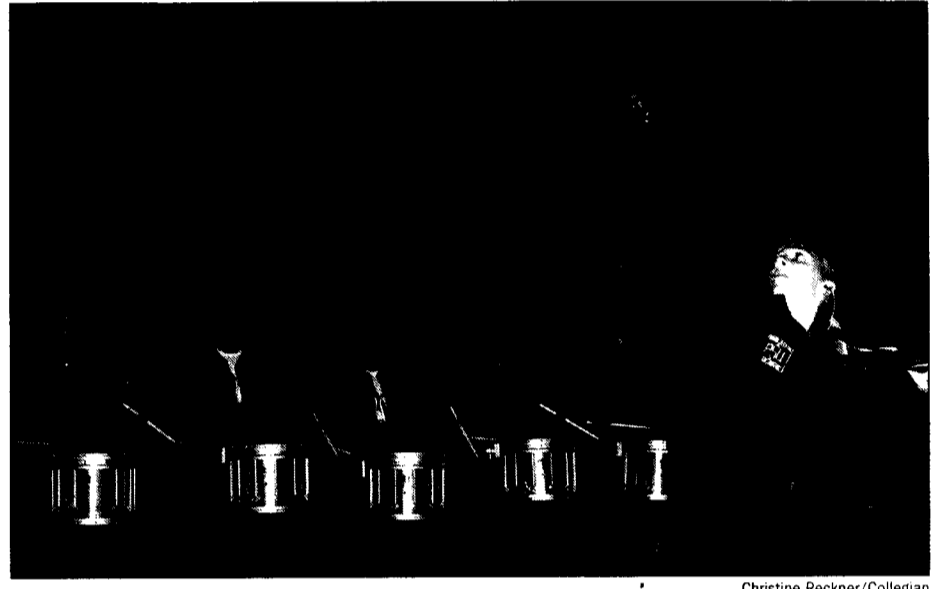


NOMMO performs during the Homecoming Parade outside of the Allen Street Gates on Friday night. NOMMO focuses on integrating dance, theater and music into an experience that reflects the culture and traditions of Africans and African-Americans. *Chloe Elmer/Collegian*

More photos, stories and multimedia content from Homecoming weekend: [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)



The Fusion dance team performs at the Homecoming Pep Rally Friday night. Fusion won a competition before the Boys Like Girls concert last Sunday to dance at the rally. *Asit Mishra/Collegian*



Members of the Blue Band play traditional Penn State fight songs at the Guard the Lion Shrine event Friday night. *Christine Reckner/Collegian*

# Pep rally excites fans, crowns royalty

This year's Homecoming king and queen were announced at the rally.

By Vera Greene  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State community was in the presence of royalty when Blue Band President Justin Ross and Society of Women Engineers (SWE) President Danielle DaSilva were named Penn State's 2010 Homecoming king and queen Friday.

As the crowd in Rec Hall erupted into cheers and applause, both Ross and DaSilva stepped forward from their fellow court members to receive their new title.

"I was speechless. I can't remember anything," Ross said. "I mean, I think I was smiling."

Ross said his win wasn't an individual one — instead it was a win for the Blue Band.

"I'm not representing myself. I'm representing the band," Ross said. "They are why I am who I am, and it's ... my experiences with the members that have encouraged me and taught me how to be a leader."

Ross was never in the limelight before becoming Blue Band president — a job that now puts him on the field at every game. But at Saturday's game against Illinois, he was on the field for a different reason.

"It was so weird to be on the sideline as Homecoming king and

not marching with the Blue Band," Ross said. "I felt like an outsider looking in, but it was cool seeing them perform. It gave me chills."

Ross said the entire week was surreal, but his favorite part was getting to know the court members.

"They are all such great people and so involved — the Homecoming committee picked a diverse group of students," Ross said. "But we all share the same characteristics: great students involved in the community and university as whole."

And the friendships Ross got out of the past week will continue on.

"Even after the fact, we all hung out this weekend and I can definitely see us hanging out in the future," Ross said.

DaSilva said she never considered winning the title of Homecoming queen. Instead, she focused on soaking up every moment of the week, deeming it one of the best experiences of her life.

"I was going to be excited for whoever won — they are all awesome people," DaSilva said. "But when they announced my name, I was like, 'Oh my god.'"

DaSilva said her face showed her genuine shock.

In addition to being named Homecoming queen, DaSilva said she had a lot of amazing experiences throughout the week. Usually a spectator to the parade, DaSilva loved riding around Penn State in a convertible, seeing the



Justin Ross, right, and Danielle DaSilva, left, were crowned Homecoming king and queen at the end of the Pep Rally Friday. *Asit Mishra/Collegian*

enthusiastic crowd.

Like Ross, DaSilva's experience was made richer by becoming friends with her fellow court members.

"It was such an honor to get to know them. We made some great memories," DaSilva said.

"Like, every time we didn't know what to do or just needed to pass time, we would start dancing."

Ross said he and DaSilva want to do some volunteer work to improve the relationship of students with the surrounding community.

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## Blue Band energizes crowd

By Vera Greene  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After an ice cream and float-filled day, the Homecoming pep rally brought Friday night's Illinois football eve to a close.

Adorned in blue and white balloons, Rec Hall buzzed with excitement from alumni and students alike. Appearing in front of the stage, the Nittany Lion was beckoned by a hearty "We Want the Lion" chant from the crowd, as people piled together in the bleacher seats.

For Olivia Hoover, events like the pep rally make her feel more bonded to Penn State even though she's a freshman.

Hoover (freshman-psychology) said she brought her boyfriend to the rally to show him real school spirit. "It's a lot of fun to see all the alumni here," she said. "I can see myself coming back even after I've graduated."

Kicking off the rally, the Glee Club performed "Hail to the Lion" to a crowd of pulsing pom poms. Continuing the school spirit, the Blue Band and baton twirlers brought the crowd to its feet during "Fight on State" and "Hey Baby."

Getting the crowd riled up, 2010 Homecoming Grand Marshal and speed skating Olympian Allison Baver walked onto the stage, bronze medal around her neck, and spoke to the crowd about her experiences.

"Dream big, because impossible is nothing."

Allison Baver  
Homecoming Grand Marshal

"Dream big, because impossible is nothing," Baver, Class of 2003, said.

At the end of the rally, Penn State gained a new Homecoming king and queen.

The crowd in the Rec Hall went wild as Society of Women Engineers (SWE) President and Biomedical Engineering Society Treasurer Danielle DaSilva stepped forward from her fellow court members and received her crown.

With a smile on her face, a sash around her body and a crown on her head, DaSilva (senior-bioengineering and mechanical engineering) was joined a few seconds later by her regal counterpart — Blue Band President and 2010 Homecoming King Justin Ross (senior-mechanical engineering).

"The pep rally was awesome and I loved the fact it was in Rec Hall," Nzhingha Nkhrumah (junior-communication arts and sciences) said. "I bleed blue and white ... I'm busting at the seams. There was such a huge amount of Penn State pride at this rally."

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# ROTC guards shrine as SuePa shares spirited story

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) members stood guard at the Lion Shrine throughout Homecoming week, they were joined on Friday night by alumni, students and the tradition's instigator: Sue Paterno.

Some people left the pep rally before the Homecoming king and queen were announced to hear Sue Paterno speak about the origins of the tradition.

When Joe Paterno began coaching in 1966, the football games were boring, Sue Paterno told a crowd of about 3,000. She said students dressed up, sat and clapped politely.

So to spice up school spirit, she and two friends dumped orange paint over the shrine to get fans

enraged at the opposing team.

The day after her prank, she told the crowd, she got a call from Joe Paterno, telling her they were going to arrest the culprits.

"I said, 'Why are you telling me?'" she said.

"He said, 'What are you going to do with the kids?'"

Her prank was a success — people started being livelier at the football games and she avoided jail time. And now, Penn State boasts the No. 1 student section in the nation, she said.

Doug Fox said he thought Sue Paterno's talk was motivating.

"It's just incredible," Fox (sophomore-recreation, parks and tourism management) said. "We're all here for the same reason."

As they have done every year since 1969, ROTC members stood

at "parade-rest" in front of the lion from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. each night of Homecoming week.

"It's a lot better than last year, because it's not snowing," ROTC member Chris Brittingham (sophomore-security risk analysis) said.

The members take half-hour shifts, ROTC member Brendan Killian said. Sometimes upperclassmen will come by to try to break their concentration, he said.

"Someone once came up and asked if we were real," Killian (sophomore-security risk analysis) said.

The program drew a crowd of a few thousand people, said Jackie Boyland (senior-human development and family studies), Lion Ambassador committee director for the event.

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Sue Paterno receives flowers at the Guard the Lion Shrine event Friday night. Paterno shared a story about painting the shrine orange. *Christine Reckner/Collegian*