

Penn State Proud – Then, Now and Forever

August 8, 2012

I grew up in a Penn State family. I have great memories of being a little girl watching Penn State football on TV with my grandfather and eating our favorite blue and white marshmallows. He would proudly tell me about how our boys were not only the best players, but they also were great students, studied hard, never missed a class, and supported charitable causes. I guess being Penn State proud is just in my DNA.

When it came time for me to choose a college, I was fortunate enough to be able to consider a few Ivy League schools and Penn State. After visiting all of these college campuses, I only ever applied to one – Penn State. I couldn't imagine going anywhere else; not only did they have top notch academic programs, but they also offered a well-rounded college experience that I didn't feel I could get at the other schools that I visited. How can you compare to spending every day with 40,000 of your best friends?

Penn State turned out to be the perfect place for me to experience life on my own and figure out who I was and where I wanted to go in life. It let me party too hard as a freshmen, learn about love and heartbreak as a sophomore, pick myself up and set my GPA on the right track during my second sophomore year (sorry mom and dad!) and finish strong my junior and senior years with fantastic internships and job offers that set me on the path to success. So much of who I am today is because of the experiences that I had at Penn State in a loving, nurturing environment with a group of students, professors and administrators that stood behind me every step of the way.

Despite the terrible events of the last few months, it doesn't change what Penn State is to me. If anything, I'm even more Penn State proud. I'm proud of the difficult decisions that our administration has made. I'm proud of our athletes and coaches for showing what Penn State Athletics are really about. I'm proud of our students for staying strong. And I'm proud of our Alumni for doubling up on their support to the school when they really need it.

Penn State will always be what it always has been – a school that provides a top notch education and a great student experience that instills positive values in its students. And yeah, we like our football, too, what's wrong with that?

« [Nittany Lion, born and raised — Penn State Proud](#) »

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