



# The Lion's Eye

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## Honors Program Service Project Helping Ghana

*Leaders in Civic Engagement (left to right) Matt Donegan (Marketing '13) and Kavita Chaudhry (Pre-med '13) - Photo courtesy of Andrew Shaner*

**By Andrew Shaner**  
*Lion's Eye Staff Writer*  
ads5249@psu.edu

Each year, Penn State Brandywine's Honors community is tasked with fulfilling a service project for the community. This project typically pertains to a common honors theme for the semester. This fall, Penn State Brandywine's Honors Program is continuing to reach its goal of civic and community engagement, this time focusing on the global community. The theme of the Honors Program for this semester is "Achieving Universal Primary Education," and students are working on a fundraiser toward this goal. The money raised will be sent to the Heritage Academy, a school for youngsters in Ghana (<http://schoerkefoundation.org/>). Honors student, Carl Doonan (DUS '12) said, "This is a great way to fulfill our honors theme for the semester."

The Heritage Academy is a co-educational primary day school for students in Ghana. It provides students in Ghana an opportunity to succeed on both their national exams (a requirement for all students in Africa) and in their lives. The Honors group decided that raising money for such an organization would be an effective service project, especially given some of the honor students' personal knowledge and friendship with the teachers working in Ghana. The Heritage Academy has a great track record of achievement; their students have a 97% success record on the national exams. Honors students met to decide on a particular activity.

Spearheaded by Honors scholars Benjamin Bean (Letters Arts and Sciences, '11) and Kavita Chaudhry (DUS '13), the effort to raise money for this cause and organization was well received among Honors students. "I think that the upcoming honors service project is very ambitious," said Lauren Orner (DUS '12). "The projects

## Career-ing it up at the Career Fair



*From Wawa to Wadell and Reed, companies and businesses from the Philadelphia area and beyond were represented in Penn State Brandywine's gymnasium for its Fall Career Fair - Photo courtesy of Christina Felizzi*

## Discourse and Driving: PA's New Cell Phone Law

**By Jenn Knowlton - Lion's Eye Campus Editor**  
jak5450@psu.edu

Beginning on November 1, 2009, Pennsylvania will be forced to abide by a new law and if you're a driver who can't find your destination and want to call a friend for directions, think again. Police are strictly enforcing this new law: no talking on the cell phone while driving. The law was signed to start in May, but administration decided not to enforce it until November. Pennsylvania wanted its' citizens to adapt to the law, which is why a five month gap occurs.

Officials say that \$75 fines will be issued to anyone driving while talking on their cell phone. Also, if you need to talk to someone on the phone you may not do so while stopped at a

red light or stop sign because that too will be breaking the new law.

Texting-while-driving laws are pending as of October 3, 2009. Yet, in order to be fined for texting while driving, if the law goes into effect, it is merely a second offense. An officer must see a person recklessly driving or doing other illegal activities to issue the fine. It is said that texting or e-mailing on a personal phone has the same effect as driving with a 0.08 BAC (blood alcohol content) level. So, when you're driving home and you hear that "Make it Rain" ring tone, think twice. Right around the corner could be a cop, and that's \$75 out of the college fund and that's not something we can all afford.

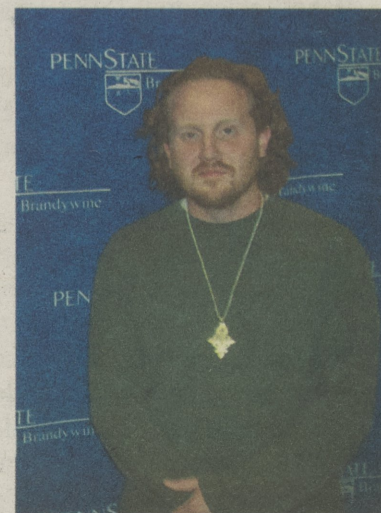
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we are doing could do a lot to further the honors program theme of achieving universal primary education." This theme is a relevant one too - the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals had hoped for equal and universal primary education by 2005. It is now 2009, and the UN still considers this goal unmet. However, a school like the Heritage Academy is an example of a step in the right direction.

The Honors group encourages students on campus to get involved in this process in any way they wish to help. Although officially National Honors Service Day was on October 16th, the Honors project for this semester stretches beyond the limits of merely one day. In fact, the fundraising will take place over the course of one week at Penn State Brandywine. On Monday October 26th, a representative from the Heritage Academy will speak at the Voices of Innovation seminar showing students firsthand how their donations and assistance can and will help the students of Ghana. The following day, the Honors group will host an Open Mic session, where students are free to speak out on various issues, not only through speech, but song and poetry as well. Donations will be accepted at this event, and students are asked to give to this worthy cause.

On October 28th, in order to raise further funds, Penn State students will be encouraged to place quarters along a marked ¼ mile path on campus over the course of the entire day. This "Quarter Mile" will be a good visual representation of the service project's effectiveness and help to put the process into perspective. Finally, on October 29th, Penn State students will be provided with the opportunity to write encouraging letters to the children in Ghana by visiting a "letter-writing station" overseen by Honors representatives. These letters will be sent directly to the Heritage Academy and will be read by learners nearly half a world away.

The opportunity to serve is one never to be missed by Penn State Brandywine's Honors group. This semester's effort is shaping up to be an exciting and well-organized endeavor toward achieving universal primary education.



*Ben Bean (Letters Arts and Sciences '11) - Photo courtesy of Andrew Shaner*