

Eye on Campus

Open Mike for Ghana



Photo courtesy of Nancy Perone

By Nancy Perone

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If you happened to wander into the Lion's Den during Common Hour last Tuesday, November 3rd, your ears would've been in for a treat far better than any leftover Halloween candy. An open mike was being held to raise money for the Heritage Academy in Ghana, West Africa. Students were invited to perform poetry and music while they munched on free pizza.

Students Benjamin Bean, Language Arts & Sciences, Rahel Teklegioris, Corporate Com

munications, and Jackie Glace, Elementary Education in Multicultural Settings, were emcees of the event. They encourage students to donate if you see one of them or a can to place your donations in around campus. There are also "Hope for Heritage" bracelets being sold for \$3 donations also benefiting the school. With just \$75, children in Ghana can go to school for a year.

For student Ben Bean, philanthropy and his love of Reggae go hand in hand. He took the stage for a majority of the time, performing spoken word, Bob Marley hits, some his originals, and even a Michael Jackson classic, "I'll Be There," to wrap up the event. Performing isn't all that new to Ben; he is in the Reggae/Rock group Steppin' Razor, whose website is steppin-razor.com. He's also involved with an organization his mother founded called Compassion Core, their website is compassion-corps.com. "I went with Compassion Corps to Timbuktu and Bamako (both cities in Mali) in January of 2008 with a team of nurses, doctors, and others who worked in the youth center and women's center in Timbuktu. While I was there, working with the children and witnessing the poverty and sickness that nearly everyone experiences there, I decided that I needed to go back to school in order to one day work to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than myself. Something about African cultures, especially West African musical traditions, speaks to me on a deep level. For that reason, along with the fact that I believe everyone should have access to education and modern medicine, my short time in Mali is drawing me towards a life of service, especially to the peoples of West Africa."

Rahel Teklegioris, who originates from Eritrea, East Africa, took the podium to talk about her connection to the cause because of her family being from Africa and how we all sometimes forget what kind of poverty and war is going on in the world, "We fled from my country and went to Sudan. My dad is a pastor, and he's been a pastor for 40 years. He ended up taking care of refugees and putting them into our home. I'm really lucky because not only would I not have the opportunity to do what I'm doing, I probably would be in the army right now. As soon as you're 18 you have to be in the army. I think sometimes we take for granted the opportunities that we have here and it's easy to live in your own little bubble, you don't realize that there's something out there that's happening that you can't really imagine."

Rahel also read the poem, "Welcome Home," which was featured at last year's Litapalooza, which she wrote for her father. She was followed by some students who wanted to lighten up the atmosphere by singing karaoke to the Carrie Underwood song, "Before He Cheats." Jackie Glace then concluded the event talking about how she was helping the Heritage Academy with "Pen Pals in Ghana" a program where 120 students at Penn State Brandywine will be able to write students in Ghana forming a friendship via correspondence. To find out more information on this cause, visit www.schoerkefoundation.org.

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Jennifer Santagelo
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Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Think Fast Game Show 12:30pm

Thursday, November 12, 2009
Change of Campus Program 11:30 am to 1pm

Friday, November 13, 2009
Late Drop Deadline

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
M/W Basketball vs. Valley Forge Christian,
Belly Dancing Workshop 11:30am
Applying to Grad Schools Workshop
11:30am to 12:30pm

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
Writing Center Workshop 11:30am

Thursday, November 19, 2009
M/W Basketball vs. Rosemont College

Saturday, November 21, 2009
Men's Basketball vs. Philadelphia Bible
4:00pm

November 22 - 27, 2009
Thanksgiving Holiday No Classes

Saturday, November 28, 2009
M/W Basketball vs. Rutgers Camden 2pm

Monday, November 29, 2009
Brad Lowery

****NOTE****
The date of Fall Commencement is now
Friday, December 18th, not Saturday,
December 19th.

At the Watercooler

Q & A with
Faculty and Staff

By Kionna Lipscomb

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Sally Ent, Advising and Career Services, Staff Assistant - Photo courtesy of Kionna Lipscomb

iPod or CD artist on repeat:	I love the Trans-Siberia orchestra around the holidays. I heard them twice in concert.
Restaurant of the hour:	I go to Generations with friends. They have good seafood.
One thing he/she knows for sure:	That time is not standing still. Grab the opportunities when presented.
Zen destination:	I would like to go to Maui.
Biggest Pet peeve:	People who do not live in the present and are still living in the past.
One improvement to our government:	Decrease government official's pay increases and get them on the universal healthcare plan to see how they will like it.
Best characteristic:	I am a people person. I can usually get along with anyone.
Best advice you can give a student:	I am currently a student and I go to class to learn as much as I can. You can never be too old to learn.
If you weren't in the advising/career services office, what could you see yourself doing instead?	I would be a nurse that does not give needles.