

# Despite snow, students run for Haiti

By Lauren Ingono  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER



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Running through mounds of snow on icy roads, Penn State students crossed the finish line of the 5K run and raised about \$1,400 to benefit Haiti.

Though 71 members had already pre-registered for the event when the snow began to fall Friday night, organizers worried there would not be a big enough turnout to reach their goal of donating \$1,000 to a Haitian orphanage.

But by Saturday morning, about 120 runners were at the starting line, in great spirits and fully prepared to take on the 5K loop around campus in the bitter cold.

"To show up here and run three miles in the snow — that really says a lot," said organizer Rachid Haoues, class of 2009.

Proceeds will go to the Brebis de Saint-Michel de L'Attalaye (BRESMA) orphanage, which was damaged by last month's earthquake.

Haoues contacted his friend Penn State Marathon Club Co-President Bobby Longenecker to

help organize the event, along with other members of the Marathon Club and the Penn State Crew club.

"The orphans are the country's most vulnerable and youngest citizens," Haoues said. "We want to give them a chance of success when they grow older."

The snow and ice seemed only to heighten the mood of the event and excite the runners. Many ran in shorts and T-shirts, barely worrying about goosebumps.

"It's a really different 5K race — everything's covered and it's slippery," Josh Sherry (freshman-energy, business and finance) said. "Everyone's just having a really good time."

Even in the midst of the fun, the runners kept the cause they were running for in mind. Longenecker (junior-kinesiology) said that his family travels to Haiti every year and he was in the country three days



Melanie Neubaum Collegian

Members of the Marathon Club and the Penn State Crew Club participated in a 5K race to benefit Haiti on Saturday morning. The race began outside the Intramural building.

before the earthquake struck.

The race ended up raising about \$1,400, but the coordinators' efforts have not ended. Haoues said he and Longenecker will travel to Pittsburgh to deliver donated

food and clothing to sisters Ali and Jamie McMurtrie, who run the orphanage in Haiti.

As the runners crossed the finish line and others cheered them on, Haoues and Longenecker

didn't seem surprised to see the enthusiasm for the cause.

"That's what Penn State's all about," Haoues said with a smile.

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## 'Hotdoggers' embrace unique opportunities

By Jessica Uzar  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Having an around-the-clock job doesn't sound very enticing — except when you get to cruise the country in a 7-ton hot dog.

And Oscar Mayer "Hotdogger" Mary Kate DeCoursey said she doesn't regret her employment choice at all.

"One of the hardest parts is that you're always on the job," said DeCoursey, Class of 2009. "But it's a small price to pay for such an awesome job."

DeCoursey drove to Penn State last week to recruit the next class of Hotdoggers — Oscar Mayer's official representatives and Wienermobile drivers.

DeCoursey said Oscar Mayer deliberately recruits at Penn State because of its College of Communications and she is speaking in classes, hanging posters and handing out "Wiener Whistles" in an effort to find her replacement.

Recruited at Penn State, DeCoursey said Wienermobiles stop at only three other universities — the University of Texas, University of Missouri and University of Wisconsin.

Those Wienermobiles each travel 500 miles per week through other regions of the country, but DeCoursey and fellow Hotdogger John "Dijon" Dobson are the Northeast Wienermobile pilots.

The Wienermobile is 60 hot dogs long, 24 hot dogs high and doesn't have a rear window. But it is not difficult to drive, Dobson said.

"We're well trained in a large van," Dobson said. "We have to navigate a tough course first in the van and then with the Wienermobile."

The Wienermobile features a six-liter 300 HP engine which can "really haul buns when we need it to," Dobson said.

Built in 2004, each vehicle is a converted Chevrolet, with the hot dog and bun frames both made of



Amanda August Collegian

Ashley Trice (sophomore-political science) takes a picture of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile stopped beside the Pattee Library on Wednesday afternoon. The "Hotdoggers" entertained students on campus all week.

fiberglass. And the Wienermobile only runs on "the highest octane of mustard," he said.

It seats six, in mustard-and-ketchup colored seats. But Hotdoggers insist on safety first: Passengers must have on their "meatbelts" before they can start driving, Dobson said.

The vehicle also features a loud-speaker system that allows pilots to talk to people outside of the Wienermobile.

Repeating phrases like "Have a franktastic day!" Dobson and DeCoursey said they just want to bring smiles to people's faces.

"I really like your relish-colored shoes and mustard-colored backpack," Dobson said to one student.

Fresh Hotdoggers will begin training at Hot Dog High, learning the background and history of Oscar Mayer special event planning and how to drive the Wienermobile.

Between 12 and 30 college graduates will be chosen to be Hotdoggers, and more than 300 have held the title since the fleet of Wienermobiles debuted in 1988.

While stopped near Berkey Creamery, the Hotdoggers handed out Wiener Whistles to students walking by.

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## PASA conference plans for future

By Casey McDermott  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Michael Reynolds' keynote address on futuristic, environmentally-friendly "Earthship" houses — constructed from recycled bottles, tires and washing machines — embodied the forward-looking mindset of this weekend's "Farming for the Future" conference.

Reynolds, along with College of Agricultural Sciences Dean Bruce McPherson and other proponents of environmentally friendly living, addressed a packed house Friday. Hosted by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), the weekend-long event was held at the Penn State Conference Center Hotel and welcomed a diverse crowd of 2,100 visitors, representing five countries, 30 states, 35 school districts and more than 43,000 acres of combined farmland.

In addition to hearing speakers, attendees participated in workshops and browsed hundreds of exhibits — learning about everything from the importance of buying local food to managing a sustainable farm.

In his keynote address, Reynolds — a well-known architect from New Mexico — outlined the benefits of building "Earthships" that combine biology and architecture to create comfortable, self-sustaining homes.

These houses are designed with indoor gardens, self-insulating walls and other ecologically minded amenities, Reynolds said, adhering to his philosophy that "when the economy goes bust, it shouldn't mean that people lose their sustenance."

But the theme of Reynolds' address was hardly limited to his specific area of expertise and instead advocated rethinking farming.

"All of the human world is limited to black and white, and there's all these shades of gray in between," Reynolds said. "And the answers are actually out there in the color spectrum [...] we haven't even scratched the surface yet."

One Penn State student at the conference, Erika Roach (graduate-agronomy) said the event provided an enjoyable and educational look at the future of farming.

"It was very nice to see so many people in Pennsylvania who care about sustainable agriculture," Roach said. "And it's a good place to learn a lot."

And for Bonnie Thomas, a student at the West Virginia University, it was a good opportunity to take an inside look at agriculture.

"As a college student and someone who's not a farmer, it's great to see the future and what's available for us," Thomas (graduate-marketing) said.

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