



Lynn McGowan/Collegian

**Bikers** ride around campus and wish passersby a "Happy Thursday" last year. The "Happy Thursday" group does this weekly and typically dresses up in accordance to a theme. Tonight's theme is pink for breast cancer awareness.

## Bikers, students wish Penn State 'Happy Thursday'

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Every Thursday evening, Chris Natale sets aside his homework, forgets about his stresses and heads over to Pattee Mall on his bike to meet up with friends for a "Happy Thursday" ride.

For the past year, some Penn State students have met up each Thursday to ride bikes and shout "Happy Thursday" to the community.

And though founder Will Morgan, Class of 2010, has graduated, Happy Thursdays are still going strong.

Morgan brought the idea to Penn State after seeing a Happy Thursday bike ride in Colorado, said Tanner Sweeney, Morgan's friend and a Happy Thursdays group member.

The goal of the ride is "to spread the joys of Thursdays," Sweeney (senior-film and video) said.

Despite an abundance of poor weather on Thursdays, bikers still trek out to Pattee mall at 6 p.m. each Thursday to wish the community a happy Thursday.

And this year, Happy Thursday rides are no longer limited to bikers on campus.

The weekly bike ride among students has expanded to include longboards, unicycles and runners — and even more bikes.

"Thursday is one of the more overlooked days of the week, it's right next to Friday and everyone just wants Friday to get there," Sweeney said.

Passerby often gave the group confused looks last year, Natale said. Now, students often shout "Happy Thursday" as they see the group approach, he said.

The ride serves as a break from the monotony of routine that students often experience, Natale (sophomore-biochemistry and molecular biology) said.

"It's a break from the norm in State College," he said. "Everyone just spends every day going to class and doing homework."

But not the Happy Thursday bikers.

The group doesn't show up with just their bikes. Those walking around campus on Thursdays will see the gang decked out in pink for breast cancer awareness month tonight and wearing their Halloween costumes next Thursday.

Other themes have included a blue and white theme for Homecoming weekend, formal wear during the career fair days and a scrapper bike theme, Natale said. Occasionally, a gorilla suit from last year is worn during a ride, Sweeney said.

"We try to keep it interesting and keep it positive," he said.

About 30 people show up to ride each week, Sweeney said, which is, on average, larger than last year's crew. But the group is always adding members on their routes, he said. A runner once managed to keep up with the bikers for an entire ride, he said.

Jason Slick had heard of the group, but it wasn't until a friend encouraged him to tag along for a ride that he understood just how happy Thursdays can be.

"It's fun to go around and ride and get out there," Slick (senior-chemical engineering) said.

Each route is new and exciting, Sweeney said. Instead of wishing for the weekend, he said he now looks forwards to Thursdays.

"It definitely makes Thursday a better day," he said. "It's the day I look forward to during the rest of the week."

To e-mail reporter: [mer520@psu.edu](mailto:mer520@psu.edu)

### If you go

**What:** Happy Thursday bike ride

**When:** Thursdays at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Pattee Mall

**Details:** Bikes aren't necessary. Students can skateboard, run or unicycle to get around. Participants should wear pink tonight in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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# Engineering 'highly regarded'

By Micah Wintner  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Ruth Graham, an independent engineering consultant from England, said she was asked to do a benchmark study for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to find which universities had the best engineering leadership programs.

While most leadership programs were strictly known within their country, Graham said Penn State's program was "highly regarded" around the world.

As a result, Penn State and MIT co-chaired the inaugural Engineering Leadership Meeting.

Representatives from nine universities met at the Atherton Hotel Wednesday for the first day of the meeting.

Richard Schuhmann, Penn State's

engineering leadership development program director, said that in the face of globalization, leadership skills are an essential quality in an engineer.

"It's not enough to just know how to do calculations anymore," Schuhmann said.

Graham said engineering education needs to change fundamentally after remaining the same for nearly 60 years.

"There's more to being an engineer than science. You got to think about the full context," Graham said.

Students in Penn State's engineering leadership development minor have the opportunity to study in Morocco and Hungary to gain leadership and engineering skills in different cultures. Leo McGonagle, MIT engineering leadership program executive director, said he was "intrigued" that Penn State's engineering leadership program offers

the option to travel abroad.

As a veteran of the Army Corps of Engineers who traveled the world, McGonagle said he is "keenly aware of cultural awareness."

The engineering leadership development minor's curriculum applies to all students, and the minor is open to everyone, Schuhmann said.

"We use engineering design as the vehicle to teach leadership," Schuhmann said. "Scientists study what is, and engineers create what never was."

Graham said engineering is theoretical, but it's necessary for engineers to start accounting for the business, environmental, and cultural aspects of the field.

"There needs to be a shift, and I think that shift will come," Graham said.

To e-mail reporter: [maw5438@psu.edu](mailto:maw5438@psu.edu)



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

**Michael Policelli (senior, materials science and engineering)** works on the Dreams Take Flight mural. Work on the mural will end soon and an unveiling is scheduled for Nov. 13.

## HUB to host grad school discussion

By Paul McMullen  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The HUB Johnson Center will be packed with all things graduate school during this year's Graduate and Professional School week continues.

Penn State, along with 99 other graduate schools from across the country, has set up shop in the heart of campus to answer questions and provide insight into the variety of graduate school opportunities available.

Jack Rayman, director of Penn State Career Services, said the events are valuable in the process for students to discover which graduate program aligns with their specific career goals, some of which require education beyond an undergraduate degree.

"It is important for students to distinguish themselves from their competition when pursuing their career goals," he said. "Going to graduate school gives students a leg up and allows them to develop an effective game plan for the future."

Rayman also urges students interested in graduate school to attend

because the fair provides a great deal of resources in one place, cutting down the amount of research and travel students have to make when exploring their options, he said.

The event features representatives from Penn State graduate programs, as well as representatives from graduate programs from across the country, including American University, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pennsylvania, to name a few.

Another aspect of the event features a graduate student panel presented by the Penn State Graduate Student Association, which will be held in the HUB Auditorium at 2 p.m. today. Undergraduates will sit in as current graduate students share their experiences during graduate school and field any questions that they may have concerning the overall experience.

Jon Lozano, president of the Graduate Student Association, said the panel will provide prospective graduate students with insight into what being a graduate student actually means in basic terms.

Lozano (graduate-student affairs and law) said becoming a graduate

### If you go

**What:** Succeeding in Graduate School panel discussion

**When:** 2 p.m. today

**Where:** HUB Auditorium

**Details:** Students interested in graduate school will be able to hear graduate student's experiences and will have the opportunity to ask questions.

student has provided him with the opportunity to tailor his education to meet his specific career aspirations — he hopes students will attend and set themselves up for the same opportunity.

"It is becoming increasingly important to have a graduate degree in the current employment landscape," he said.

"The fair will allow students to interact with grad students that share similar interests so that they can enhance their skills and set themselves apart from others."

To email reporter: [p hm5030@psu.edu](mailto:p hm5030@psu.edu)

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Dr. James O. Horton, the Benjamin Banneker Professor Emeritus of American Studies and History at The George Washington University and Historian Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, and author of numerous publications, including his most recent *Book Slavery and Public History: The Tough Staff of American Memory* (New Press 2006), co-edited with Lois E. Horton, will present three lectures on the theme:

Thursday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.  
**Race and Slavery: America's Great Contradiction**  
110 Business Building

Friday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.  
**The 1850s: America's Most Critical Decade**  
110 Business Building

Saturday, October 23, 4:00 p.m.  
**America's Memory of Slavery and the Civil War**  
110 Business Building

The Brose Lectures, created to appreciate the donor's scholarship with expertise in the field of American history, are held in the name of the late Steven and Janice Brose.

The publication is available in alternative media on request.