It did not take us long to develop our honors programming theme for 2009-2010: Educating the global village: Primary education.

For the academic year, we are focusing our overall honors theme on United Nations Millennium Development Goal #2, achieve universal primary education. The UN provides these facts:

- Globally, 570 million children are enrolled in school. The number of children of primary school age who were out of school fell from 103 million in 1999 to 73 million in 2006. In that year, primary school enrolment in developing countries reached 88 percent on average, up from 83 percent in 2000.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, the net primary school enrolment ratio has only recently reached 71 percent, even after a significant jump in enrolment that began in 2000. Around 38 million children of primary school age in this region are still out of school.

As an honors community, we look forward to exploring this theme through our fall semester Literary Launch, Three Cups of Tea. Our honors service day project will address literacy and education, possibly by connecting with a school in Zambia (interestingly, honors service day falls on the same day as the international celebration of “Stand Up—Speak Out”). Finally, all of our honors courses and informal meetings will have engaging discussions to consider innovative solutions for universal primary education.
We welcome the following students to the Penn State Brandywine Cooper Honors Program!

**Entering freshmen**

Tara Ambrosine, Laura Boyd, Christopher Brown, Kavita Chaudhry, Luiggi Colan, Matthew Donegan, Chelsea Gilliam, Rosemary Griendling, Ryan Heenan, Megan Henderson, Joel Idicula, Mary Elizabeth Keeney, Evan Kroboth, Taj Magruder, Samantha McCauley, John Neel, William Schmidt, Michael Shepard, Alan Su, and Sara Tuchinsky

**Rising sophomores and juniors**

Steven Atz (PreMed), Benjamin Bean (LAS), Joe Laut (ENGL)

Finally, we want to welcome back our returning Cooper Scholars:

Matthew Bachman, Gwyneth Bohara, Mary-therese Capaldi, June Carfagno, David Daley, Carl Doonan, Kyle Lauser, Jonathan Madary, Sara Neville, Sean O’Connor, Lauren Orner, Diane Paolo, Emily Robb, Andrew Shaner, and Nina Zeoli.

Our honors scholars have the opportunity to enroll in several honors courses in Fall 2009:

- **STS 130H—World Food Problems** (see next page for a description of this honors orientation seminar)
- **L ST 100H—Information Search Strategy**
- **ENGL 030S—Honors Freshman Composition**
- **HONOR 301H—The Role of Knowledge in Society**
- **AM ST 100U—Introduction to American Studies**
Schreyer Scholar Jackie Glace details her summer.

This past summer was my most challenging and rewarding by far. I had the privilege of working for The Appalachia Service Project (ASP)—an organization that provides emergency home repair for low-income families living in Central Appalachia. I had previously volunteered for ASP for one week at a time during the summers of 2004-2008. This summer, I was stationed in Magoffin County, Kentucky with three other college students. There, we looked at over 150 applications, visited approximately sixty homes, and from there, chose the fifteen construction projects that we managed. Each week, for seven weeks, approximately seventy volunteers would arrive at the elementary school, that we called home for the summer, prepared to work. Construction projects we managed ranged from a drainage ditch to a room addition. Each family that we worked for this summer was absolutely amazing and made every hardship worth it.

One family member in particular that stands out is Mae, a single woman in her forty’s. Mae lived in the last coal-mining house in Magoffin County. When we arrived at the Initial Home Visit, we noticed that Mae’s house had absolutely no foundation, siding or insulation. Also, one of her chimneys was caving in, and she had to continuously move buckets around her house to catch the rain or snow that came in through her roof. We knew right away that we wanted to work for Mae but were not sure what our budget could manage. Fortunately, we were able to fundraise approximately $19,000. Part of that fundraising went towards Mae’s home. Over the course of seven weeks, volunteers gave Mae a foundation, siding, insulation, new floors, new walls, a new chimney and finally a new tin roof. One particularly memorable day was when I went to Mae’s to check on the volunteers, and she came running up to me saying “Jackie! It rained last night! It rained so hard and I did not have to worry where my buckets were!”

Working for The Appalachia Service Project was a life-altering experience. It was both a blessing and a hardship at times to have so much influence over the outcome of families’ homes. When we did the closing paperwork on Mae’s house, she explained, “I wasn’t sure where I was going to live in the winter but I knew I couldn’t live here anymore. Now, I am happy to say I’m never going to have to leave.” At the end of the summer, I am ecstatic to say that I, along with three other college students, managed the construction work of fifteen homes that are now warmer, safer, and dryer because of the work our volunteers completed.

Below is a picture of Mae’s house, a house I had the privilege of working on this summer. If anyone would like to learn more about ASP, please go to ASP’s website www.asphome.org or contact me at jmg5349@psu.edu.

THE PENN STATE BRANDYWINE HONORS PROGRAM

Connecting communities
Transforming lives
I started a small IT company called Eye-Tee LLC. One month after starting the company, I got my first customer. I am enjoying my work with Eye-Tee, especially since I now have more customers. Towards the end of the summer I came up with an idea for a website that would allow local small mechanics to accept appointments via the internet (we will start locally, in Montgomery County, to give the repair shops and consumers the best service possible). I now have a team of five people, including me, working on the project. The company, OnlineMechanix, will formally be launched in December of 2009. We are currently working on an innovative calendar feature that repair shops can use for all their appointment needs. Our site will also have ratings of local small repair shops and discounts the shops are offering. In the future we plan to offer mechanics easy online access to their part suppliers through this site as well. I am hopeful that my new venture will help local businesses and enhance my business expertise.

Left: Photo of John Formento with his poster at the Spring 2009 Socratic Symposium.

This semester, the honors photography contest will be held in conjunction with the university-wide Flickr project for National Constitution Day. By September 17, everyone (not just honors scholars, but faculty, staff, students, and alumni from all Penn State campuses) are asked to submit an image and description into our Constitution Day Flickr group along the theme of WE THE PEOPLE. Please contact Dr. Guertin after you submit your image, so that the judging can begin for recognition and a prize! Visit http://tinyurl.com/pennstateconstitutionday/ for additional information and details on how to upload your image.
Two of our honors students engaged in unique undergraduate research experiences. Schreyer Scholar Paola Pedraza-Rivera was part of the Cumberland Cemetery Research Group in GEOSC 097H in Spring 2009. She was curious to explore how the notations and the language used on tombstones in Cumberland compared to the tombstones back home in Puerto Rico. This summer, Paola spent many hot days in the sun recording dates of birth and death, gender, and epitaphs for hundreds of tombstones in a cemetery outside of the city of Ponce. Paola looks forward to publishing her work, but first she will present her results at the National Council for Geographic Education Conference being held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in September. Although this is not Paola’s first conference experience (photo below from a prior presentation), what will be unique is that her poster will be written in Spanish! Below is her conference abstract.

Tombstone Gender Epitaphs in Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico

Tombstone epitaphs can honor gender and position within a family and/or marriage. In Media, PA, a male tombstone may be inscribed with “husband” or “father.” In Sabana Grande, PR, the inscription would be “recuerdos de tu esposa,” translated to “remembered by your wife.” The same is seen in female epitaphs. A student educational module has been constructed to compare cultural epitaph differences and the lifespan/longevity patterns between the geographic locations.

Cooper Scholar Sara Neville just finished her freshman year, and she has built up quite an impressive resume in just one year and a summer! Sara, a secondary education-math major, was selected as a pre-service teacher fellow for the National Science Foundation’s 2009 summer workshop in Transforming Earth System Science Education. After taking the honors section of Earth & Life (GEOSC 021H) in Spring 2009, Sara was ready to work with in-service teachers, graduate students, and undergraduate geology majors in exploring innovative and effective methods of using inquiry-based learning to teach about the Earth as a system. As part of her participation, Sara is required to complete an independent research project. Sara decided to use the common reading book that all program participants read before the workshop, John McPhee’s The Control of Nature, and create a tour of the geography in Google Earth. She also developed a set of critical thinking questions for teachers to use with the book. The initial demonstration of her Google Earth QUEST (Questioning and Understanding Earth Science Themes) was so successful that teachers have asked for more QUESTs! Sara is continuing her work this fall by developing two additional Google Earth QUESTs based on books used in previous years of the NSF–TESSE program.
Sophomore Matt Bachman, an honors civil engineering major, found he has a talent he never imagined: writing. Bachman is published in University Park's annual journal, Best of Freshman Writing, Volume 14.

"I was surprised but really happy when I got the e-mail," Bachman, of Newark, Del., said of his essay titled, "The United States' Failure to Sign the Rights of the Child" making the cut. "I always liked writing and I hear a lot of engineers struggle with it, so we'll see how that works out for me."

On choosing such an important and serious topic, Bachman said he had never heard of the United Nations' treaty his essay was based on until he was asked to research it for a one-credit library studies course required for all honors students. When asked to write an essay for Dr. Goldschmidt's ENGL 030S course, Bachman decided to revisit the topic, not realizing so many people would find his thoughts so compelling.

"Matt Bachman is one of the strongest writers I have ever taught," Goldschmidt said. "I submitted his essay because of his sophisticated insight into an important global issue - the rights of the child - and because of his strong presentation of both sides of this issue. Through his writing, Matt serves as a role model to other students, raising awareness about the Rights of the Child [Treaty] and showing that one person can make a difference."

Each year, English professors from Penn State's 19 campuses are on the lookout for exceptional essays from their freshman English classes they deem worthy of publication. At the end of the academic year the best of the best are submitted to the journal's editorial board, which decides which essays will make it to publication. The journal is often used as a classroom textbook in many English classes at Penn State; the essays serve as writing models for students in the freshman courses.

**Fall 2009 Seminar Series—Voices of Innovation**

Again for Fall 2009, the honors program is proud to present a seminar series open to all students on campus, "Voices of Innovation." The purpose of the seminar series is for students to learn about organizations that have moved beyond using a “Band-Aid” fix for community concerns. Students will hear how these organizations are implementing innovative ideas and strategies for creating and maintaining sustained change for populations with an identified need.

**Monday, September 28** — Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Jason Raia, Vice President of Education. The Freedoms Foundation was established after World War II to honor patriotism and good citizenship. This non-profit organization with over 30 chapters nationwide provides a wide range of educational and awards programs for students, teachers and citizens to gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the principles and responsibilities of a free and democratic society. [http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/](http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/)

**Friday, October 23** — First Book-Philadelphia, Ted Robb, Chair, Jennifer Pitt, Secretary. First Book provides new books to children in need, addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy—access to books. An innovative leader in social enterprise, First Book has distributed more than 60 million free and low cost books to disadvantaged children and the programs that serve them. In 2008, First Book Philly provided 17,244 books to 2,168 kids in the Greater Philadelphia area. That’s 8 books for each child to take home—a mini library in neighborhoods where suitable children’s books

**Friday, November 13** — Spiral Q Puppet Theater, Tracey Broyles, Executive Director. Philadelphia’s Spiral Q Puppet Theater lives at the intersection of the arts and social justice communities. Established in 1996, Spiral Q produces giant puppet parades that raise social consciousness, and connect individuals and organizations throughout the city. Working from the belief that freedom of speech is both an inalienable individual right and a collective responsibility, Spiral Q strives to use the age-old arts of puppet-making and theatrical pageantry as vehicles for social change. [http://www.spiralq.org/](http://www.spiralq.org/)
Congratulations to Lindley Jones, the first Schreyer Honors College graduate from Penn State Brandywine! Lindley graduated in August with a degree in Business and honors in Science, Technology & Society. Her thesis involved the creation, marketing, and selling of a new jewelry line based on cultural influences from her visit to Spain and Morocco with the Penn State Brandywine International Studies program. Lindley’s International Charm collection featured over thirty new pieces which she designed and made herself. As part of her thesis, Lindley created a promotional video describing her jewelry, which was followed by a jewelry show on campus. Below is the abstract to her thesis. Congratulations, Lindley, on an outstanding job!

International Charm: A Jewelry Collection of Spanish and Moroccan Influence

The International Charm jewelry collection, exhibited in the summer of 2009 at Penn State Brandywine, is the culmination of months of research studies, a nine-day study in Spain and Morocco, and countless hours of jewelry design. The collection in this new jewelry line features exquisite, one-of-a-kind pieces of handmade jewelry using the finest quality materials including gold, silver, amethyst, rubies, Swarovski crystal and more. Although the tools and materials to create jewelry are the same between the United States and what I observed overseas, the visual cues in the cultures of Spain and Morocco heavily influenced my new designs. This thesis peeks into the world of jewelry design and creation, from exploring historical styles to rough ideas and inspirations while being immersed in a culture to the finished work.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SOME IMPORTANT DATES!

Scholars, mark these important dates on your calendar! More events to come!

**Thursday, September 17:** National Constitution Day open mic (led by STS 130H), Vairo Courtyard, 11:30AM-1:00PM. Pizza and soda provided.

Don’t forget about the Constitution Day Flickr project! See page 3 of this newsletter for details. This is our honors photography contest for the semester!

September is National Sewing Month, and senior Emily Robb is organizing a day of sewing Huggy Pillows on **Friday, September 18**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by the Tomezsko Lounge and help us make these pillows that will be donated to area hospitals. Huggy Pillows are used in the recovery and rehabilitation process of cardiac patients. Everyone is welcome to participate in this project, and no sewing experience is required.

**Thursday, October 15,** everyone in an honors course or engaged in a related honors-option project will be heading down to Washington DC to visit the international Solar Decathlon competition! We will view 20 houses constructed by university students from across the globe to explore their innovative uses of solar technologies.

National Honors Service Day is **Friday, October 16**. There is much excitement and chatter already among your fellow scholars as we explore an exciting letter writing project relating to our honors theme of the year, the UN Millennium Development Goal #2, Universal Primary Education.

**Tuesday, November 17,** is our Socratic Symposium, a chance for all honors students to gather together and celebrate academic excellence. This event is during common hour at 11:30AM in TMZKO 101. Your attendance is mandatory.

**To be scheduled:** dinner with honors alumni to discuss *Three Cups of Tea*
At the end of each spring semester, honors scholars are given a detailed survey asking them about their experience on campus as honors scholars—everything from their challenging honors courses to the fieldtrips, service projects, and research opportunities. Scholars were asked to rank on a scale of 1-7 (with 7 being the highest score) each of the following:

- Rate the extent to which your honors experience has connected to the honors mission of “achieving academic excellence with integrity.” AVERAGE = 6.5
- Rate the extent to which your honors experience has connected to the honors mission of “building a global perspective.” AVERAGE = 6.4
- Rate the extent to which your honors experience has connected to the honors mission of “creating opportunities for leadership and civic engagement.” AVERAGE = 6.3

We also asked our scholars to include any additional comments/suggestions/concerns about the honors program. Included are italicized comments, with our reply (where appropriate).

*It is always a treat to walk into the honors program classes because I know I will be challenged to think above and beyond the level normally expected. The capstone has been difficult but I’ve really grown and learned a lot from it.*

*It would be interesting if each individual class taught would have its own service project that related somewhat to the course material/overall honors theme.*

We certainly value the importance of the “leadership and civic engagement” mission of honors. Almost all of our honors courses have a civic engagement component (which is why you will see so many of our honors students pursuing the minor in civic and community engagement). We will work harder for 100% of our courses to incorporate civic engagement.

*I love being a part of the honors program and I feel it has given me a lot in the way of experiences and perspectives, as well as challenged me (and continues to challenge me) as a student. One thing I would like to see is less of our budget allocated to food and more spent on things relating to our curriculum; like field trips, books, etc.*

Actually, very little of our budget goes towards food. All of the lunches served at the Voices of Innovation seminars, Constitution Day, etc., are paid for through the Student Allocations Fee, as these events are open to the entire campus. The only food that comes from the honors budget is for the Socratic Symposium. If there are specific fieldtrips and honors experiences you would like to have, please tell us and we’ll worry about the finances to make it happen!

*Why do we have to read a common book if it isn’t used? I read it, and we didn’t talk about the book in my honors class except one day.*

Depending upon the book and the course, it may be difficult to incorporate the information throughout a course. For example, this semester’s American Studies course and *Thee Cups of Tea* are certainly opposite in content and scope. We have honors events such as the honors alumni dinner to have a book discussion, but we also encourage YOU to bring up the book in your classes and make the connections.

We greatly value the thoughts, general comments, and feedback from our alumni. We would also like to encourage your participation in our events, such as the service projects and Literary Launch. We hope to hear from you, and please help spread the word to your fellow honors alum!
CALLING ALL HONORS ALUMNI—BE SURE TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

Once you are a part of the Penn State Brandywine honors community, you are ALWAYS a part of our community, even when you graduate! We encourage all alumni to keep in touch with us. We welcome updates on what you have been up to since graduation. Please continue to share your experiences with us and the scholars that follow in your footsteps.

For students that begin with the Cooper Honors Program and transfer to University Park to finish as Schreyer Scholars, we want to hear from you, too!

Please send all changes of address and updates to:
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Penn State Brandywine
25 Yearsley Mill Road
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Or email: HONORS@BRANDYWINE.PSU.EDU