

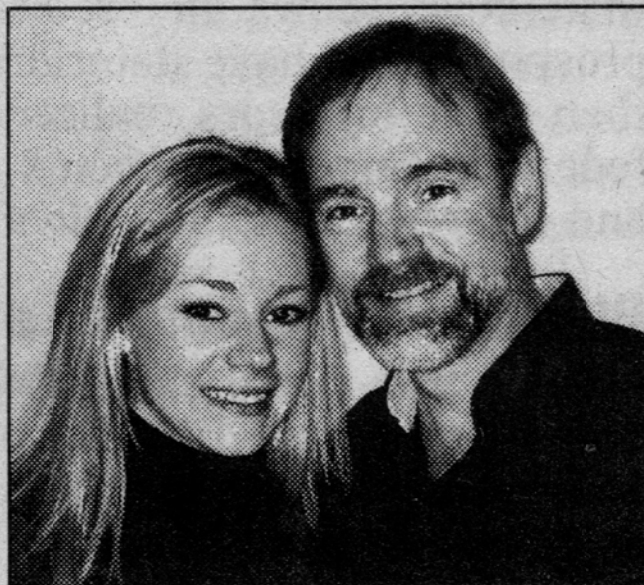
# Eye on the road, hand off the phone

A new government website warns against the perils of driving while distracted.

**By Chris Mondics**  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A U.S. Department of Transportation website warning of the dangers of distracted driving launched on Tuesday and features a video memorial for Casey Feldman, a college student from Springfield, Delaware County, killed in 2009 when she was struck in a pedestrian crosswalk in Ocean City by a delivery van.

The video, which can be accessed on the DOT home page and on [caseyfeldmanfoundation.org](http://caseyfeldmanfoundation.org), features Feldman's mother, Dianne, and friends reflecting on the loss and warning of the heartache



**Casey Feldman** (left) of Springfield, Delaware County, killed in 2009, is the subject of a memorial on the website.

and havoc that can ensue from a moment of inattention at the wheel.

"We hope these stories will cause some of us to rethink our responsibilities as drivers," said Casey Feldman's father, Joel, a prominent Philadelphia trial lawyer. "We are proof that tragedies can hap-

See **FELDMAN** on E2

# Feldman

**Continued from E1**

The video, shot at the Feldmans' home in January, appears with video memorials of other accident victims killed by distracted drivers, under the title "Faces of Dis-

tracted Driving." The site also includes statements from U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, statistics and studies, and news feeds on the issue.

"No message or call is worth the risk [of distraction]," LaHood says.

Federal statistics indicate about 5,500 people are killed each year on Ameri-

can roadways by drivers chatting on cell phones, texting, operating navigation systems, grooming, and engaging in other activities that divert attention from the road.

Casey Feldman's death July 17, 2009, along with that of Alexis Cohen, of Allentown, a former *American Idol* contestant killed in a hit-and-run in Seaside Heights a few days later, helped focus attention on pedestrian traffic fatalities and played a role in the enactment of legislation imposing stiff fines on New Jersey drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.

The DOT website includes a half-dozen other video testimonials from families and friends of victims, some of whom were involved in crashes because they them-

selves either were texting or talking on cell phones while driving.

Police say the accident that took Casey Feldman's life did not involve a cell phone.

Feldman, a 21-year-old student at Fordham University, who had been walking to her job at a boardwalk restaurant, had been in the pedestrian crosswalk at least five seconds before she was struck, police say. The call log on the driver's cell phone showed that he had not been on the phone at the time, police said.

He was cited for careless driving and failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

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