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The Collegian

The weekly newspaper of Penn State-Behrend College
Thursday, January 21, 1993 Vol. XLI No. 13

New grad assists H&WC

by Rob Moffet
Collegian Staff

There is a new face at the Health and Wellness Center here at Behrend. Colleen O'Hara has replaced Kathy Eck as the Wellness Coordinator for the campus.

Colleen, a native of Erie, currently holds an under-graduate degree in Sports Medicine. She is working on her Masters Degree in Health Education from Main Campus by taking classes at Penn State's Downtown Center.

Colleen is in charge of the organization of such events as Drug Awareness Week and other related student activities. She realizes that these events can be

dull if not done properly and is interested in "making them more enjoyable for the students."

Although from Erie, Colleen was never familiar with Behrend and is very impressed with how well she has been treated. She

"I expected them to be resistant...I was really surprised."

--Colleen O'Hara

said she was surprised by the amount of cooperation she has received from the fraternities and sororities with regard to participation in campus events. "I expected them to be resistant...I was really

surprised."

Since the Health Center has no advertising budget, Colleen would like everyone to know about some upcoming events.

January 25-29 is Healthy Choices week. It is a new program featuring representatives from Ask-A-Nurse and AIDS Awareness. The Hamot Wellness Center will also be giving free health evaluations.

February 8-12 is Drug Awareness Week featuring

Charlie Boumann, the Patriots' place kicker, and a mock-trial

sponsored by Tau Kappa Epsilon.



Arnel Balcita/Collegian Photographer

PLAY BALL: Girls' basketball coach Jenepher Banker's son, Colby, demonstrates his expertise at his mother's sport at the girls' game against Alfred University.

Congress changes financial aid

by Gary Johnson
News Editor

"The reason for the change is because Congress has revised the Higher Education Act, which gives life to all financial aid," said Kate Delfino, assistant director of admissions, graduate admissions, and financial aid.

"The major change in financial aid is that now there are two application forms to fill out."

The two forms to be used are the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is used to request federal and University aid, which includes the Poligrant, Perkins, and Work Study grants, and the PHEAA Aid Information Request, which is required for state aid.

The two forms will be in a single packet, so they are received, filled out, and returned together.

Eligibility is another change. Home equity will no longer be taken into account, which should benefit most students. "Eligibility should increase, although there will be no

additional grant money to compensate for the increased number of students receiving aid," commented Delfino.

The issue of "independent student" will also change. Congress, in its revision of the Higher Education Act, made it clear that families should take first responsibility for the student's education, which means that there will probably be less students listed as independent. "This issue will be handled case-by-case," said Delfino.

"There will be no additional costs to students," said Delfino as to whether tuition or other expenses would increase.

Congress periodically changes the Higher Education Act in review of the education system.

Financial aid workshops for returning students will be held in the Reed Seminar Room at noon on Tuesday, January 26, Wednesday, January 27, and Thursday, January 28.

The application deadline is February 15.

Resident scholar receives grant

by April M. Bogdanski
Collegian Staff

Chris Dubbs, assistant professor of creative writing, has received a \$5,000 grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fiction Fellowship.

The grant is a Pennsylvania Humanities Grant, which scholars from all areas of Pennsylvania strive for each year. According to the grant proposal, the Literature Program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts awards fellowships "to a limited number of writers of exceptional talent." Only thirteen are selected out of four hundred proposals, and Dubbs was honorably one of them. He was the only literature recipient in northwestern Pennsylvania.

"Aside from giving you resources to set aside blocks of time to work on a project, grants provide deadline pressure, a very good motivator," said Dubbs.

The Pennsylvania Council Award recognizes Professor Dubbs' outstanding talents. It also recognizes that he is part of Behrend's creative writing program. This has a positive effect on the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. According to Dr. Roberta Salper, head of the division of Humanities and Social Sciences, this award enables Dubbs to have more financial flexibility and will call attention to his talent. "I am very glad that the Council has recognized Professor Dubbs' talent, and I am proud that he is a member of Behrend's faculty and of Behrend College."

Dubbs will be using the grant to complete a series of stories he is writing about returning World War II soldiers and the French War bride who accompanies one of them. The

literary journal Sou'wester published the first story last year, and the second one will appear in the Colorado Review. "I've never before written a series of stories using the same character. It's like writing a novel in steps," continued Dubbs.

Dubbs is also the author of "Ms. Faust," a retelling of the Faustian legend in which a female executive makes a pact with the devil in exchange for a swift climb up the corporate ladder. The book has been optioned as a feature film.