

Behrend student named Truman finalist

BEHREND-Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is pleased to announce that Melissa E. Hayes, a junior political science major from North East, Pa., has been named a 1996 Truman Scholarship finalist. She is one of only two finalists from Penn State this year. She is also the second finalist from Penn State-Behrend in two years.

Each year, the trustees of the Truman Scholarship Foundation award \$30,000 scholarships between 75 and 85 students nationwide. Two hundred and thirty three finalists will compete for the awards in final interviews later this month. The scholarships, a living memorial to President Harry S. Truman, fund the senior year and two years of graduate study for each winter. Truman Scholars also benefit from priority admission and supplemental financial aid at premier graduate institutions, and receive opportunities for special leadership training, career and graduate school counseling, as well as employment opportunities with the federal government.

Finalists are selected in recognition of their values, ambitions, achievements, contributions, and potential. Nominees must have obtained two years of academic credit at a university or college, be full-time students with junior-level academic standing, and demonstrate their interest in public service.

Hayes balances her full-time student status at Penn State-Behrend with between 35 and 40 hours a week in an AmeriCorps Program, through which she has introduced over 300 high school students to the rewards of service.

"I have seen many "at risk" students who participate in community service develop the self-esteem and confidence they need to succeed in life," says

Hayes. "Service helps a student to develop into a responsible, socially-aware adult committed to addressing the needs of society."

Hayes participates in the College's rigorous University Scholars program, offered to the top five percent of students at Penn State. She has completed substantial research projects on

Hayes will travel to the White House Conference Center in Washington D.C. on April 22 for her final interview, where she will be grilled by a panel of distinguished judges including Louis Blair, executive secretary of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation; E. Thomas Coleman, vice president

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-Melissa Hayes

both the history of national service programs including VISTA and the Peace Corps, and on the effect Governor Tom Ridge's proposal voucher plan will have on public education. Last summer she served as a legislative assistant to Pennsylvania State Representative Karl Boyes.

"Melissa is genuinely committed to public service," said Dr. John Gamble, professor of political science and international law at Penn State-Behrend. "It's a characteristic which I believe is very important, but out of vogue in American society today," he commented. Gamble has taught Hayes in a number of courses, and served as her advisor. She plans to attain a dual degree in law and public policy, with the goal of understanding the legalities of legislative and policy-making actions in her public service career. Melissa intends to remain a life-long advocate of community service in public education.

of federal government relations for BASF Corporation; Kitty Dukakis, public citizen; Patricia Florestano, Secretary of Higher Education for the State of Maryland; Harry Hughes, an attorney with Patton and Boggs; and Shirley Sagawa, executive director of the Corporation for National Service.



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Rainbows and halos

Find out the mystery of Nature's most spectacular shows

BEHREND-In a discussion on Thursday, April 25, Jonathan Hall, instructor of Physics, will illustrate how people over the ages have tried to unravel the mystery of the rainbow.

In the lecture, titled, "Rainbows and Halos," pictures and demonstrations will be used to explain how many rainbows can be seen at once and what different types of rainbows have been observed. The lecture will also show when and where the best places to look for rainbows are.

Hall will also present other topics in atmospheric optics, such as halos and sun dogs. The program is intended for anyone curious about one of Nature's most colorful spectacles. Weather permitting, there will be observing with small telescopes after the lecture, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Please call 898-6105 for reservations.



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