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H&SS to hire seven new faculty



photo by Jason Blake

The Academic Building, where offices for seven new faculty will be located next year. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences will be hiring new professors in Integrative Arts, History, Political Science, and Music, and three people in English.

by Mark Greenbank
staff writer

The Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS) school will be adding seven new faces for the 1998-1999 academic year. While the interviewing is still in process, and no official announcement has been made regarding whom the new faculty will be, the seven positions hoping to be filled have been posted. The areas in which new faculty will be placed are Political Science, Music, History, Integrative Arts, and English.

The school will be adding one assistant professor in the area of Political Science, as well as one new lecturer in Music. Also due to a year long sabbatical by Dr. Ralph Eckert, a new faculty member will be added to the history department. Additionally, one lecturer will be added in Integrative Arts who will add a new line and explore new ways of teaching the Integrative Arts. "The addition of lecturers in Integrative Arts and English represent an effort to replace part time people with full time instructors," said Dr. Roberta Salper, director of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The largest changes are going to occur in the area of English. One Assistant Professor in English will be

added who will specialize in creative writing, as well as fiction and literature. Two new lecturers will also be added to the school with the one member specializing in English composition and global literature. The other lecturer will specialize in English and multimedia technology. Developing from this could be one or two new courses, and while they will be available to all H&SS students, these courses will specifically target the areas of English, History, and Communications. Many of the details are still being worked out, but these courses are going to deal with Web Publishing and Desktop Publishing. Dr. Salper also stated that "We are looking to infuse the appropriate technology into the teaching of the Humanities and Social Sciences."

All of the new faculty will be full time, and the school is ensuring that they possess an ability and a willingness to advise students. Finally, the Humanities and Social Sciences school is proposing a new Master's degree in Applied Psychology with an initial emphasis on Industrial Organization. The University hopes that these changes will properly benefit the school, and meet the needs of the students for the coming year.

SGA listens to requests for activity fee allocations

by Joet Kolano
staff writer

SGA held their second Student Forum this year last night. During the hour long meeting, ideas about the Student Activity Fee, parking, and general improvement suggestions were discussed.

The first suggestion of the night was from Julie Cain '08, Applied Mathematics. She thought that with the 50th Anniversary of the college coming up that we might have a formal ball. This ball would be in memoriam of Mary Behrend who had wanted there to be a ball. If a ball could not be coordinated, another suggestion was to have ballroom dance lessons. These lessons would be free to Behrend students (others would be welcome for a small fee).

The most discussed suggestion of the night was from Mike DeSantis, '06 MIS, for a new campus radio station. Key arguments for the station were: lack of communication of on campus events and that the station would be good experience for communication majors. Dr. Chris Reber, the Dean of Student Affairs, gave an inside point of view concerning cost, availability of spots, and why we do

not play music on the radio station that we already have. He said that the minimum that a new radio station would cost is \$50,000. We do not play music because the station has a commercial license and is set up with a business, news and sports format. He said that another radio station is possible but it will take a lot of effort and money.

As expected, many issues concerning snow removal and the addition of paths and staircases were brought up. John Ream, the Director of Operations, was not available to reply to the comments and questions. He is expected to be at the next SGA meeting on Wednesday February 11. One complaint that was able to be discussed was from Shannon Jones, the President of MCC. He complained about the potholes in the parking lots and Dr. Chris Reber confirmed that they will be repaired as soon as the weather is better.

The Spirit Committee suggested that the Student Activity Fee be used for free "mocktails and coffee" as a nonalcoholic alternative for the weekends along with Bruno's attractions.

For the science department, G.

Scott Moore, '06 Physics, suggested that there be improvements made in the astronomy division. He brought up issues of safety, the age of the equipment, and the effects that it would have on divisions other than astronomy. The telescope that they already have is around 40 years old and the steps and ladder that you must use to get to it are steep and dangerous. The astronomy department has sponsored open houses and their turnouts have been so large that they cannot open up the observatory. He asked for a new telescope (for the third, unused mount that we already have), a C.C.D. camera, and a laptop computer that would project images from the observatory telescope to Science room 101. Moore said that these improvements could be used by the physics department and it would possibly give an opportunity for more courses to be offered.

Shawn Goodwin, an SGA Senator, suggested a way to keep or bring students back to campus might be to buy more bleachers for sports events. Director of Athletics Brian Streeter said that for next year five sets of bleachers will be purchased and the fields will have a stadium effect.

Scott Moore also complained about the daycare hours. He said that the Penn State daycare is only open Monday through Friday until 6:30. There is no childcare during the weekend so if an off-campus student were to want to come to a campus event, they must find a babysitter. Although the campus does not have childcare during the weekend, there is a list of babysitters available.

With the renovation of the Reed Commons in March, Charles Testrake an SGA Senator questioned whether or not the Studio Theater would be enlarged or put in a larger building.

The Student Activity Fee Committee will be meeting over the next two weeks to discuss the topics that were brought up at the Student Forum. After that time, they will notify the student body what they decided. Many interesting ideas were thrown around at the meeting. Mike Zampetti, SGA President, announced that SGA plans to hold open forums on the first Wednesday of every month due to their success so far.



photo by Jason Blake

Dr. Roberta Salper, Director of The School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Students get their hands on sand

by Mark Greenbank
staff writer

When you open a can of mixed nuts, why are the bigger nuts always on top? Those who attended the latest presentation by the School of Science last week discovered answers to questions like these and many more.

Last Thursday, Dr. G William Baxter, assistant professor of physics, presented "Sandbox Physics-the Physics of Granular Materials" to a gathering of young and old. Baxter explained that granular matter has been studied for a number of centuries, but due to recent successes in experimentation, even more questions

have arisen leaving scientists with new puzzles to solve. Baxter developed the scientific and industrial reasons for studying granular materials while incorporating a bit of historical research, as well as a multitude of demonstrations.

Baxter provided a large amount of information relating to granular materials and the contributions they make every day. Also Baxter used the perfect level of technical and scientific information, pleasing the scientists in the audience, and without losing the rest of the crowd. A large number turned out for the lecture, and all were instructed to sit as close to the

front as possible because of the large number of demonstrations that would be taking place. Those who arrived late and were seated further back were pleased to see that Baxter utilized a camera that caught all the demonstrations, and projected them onto a large screen at the front of the room. The "hands-on" participation also aided in the educational process, and created a fun atmosphere that further impressed Baxter's points upon the audience. While a few of the demonstrations required special equipment, most were simple and could easily be

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Gretchen Kline elected Faculty Senate Representative

by Andrea Zaffino
editor in chief

At 2:00 yesterday afternoon, the results were in for the Faculty Senate elections, naming Gretchen Kline, '08 Psychology, the winner. Geoffrey Pieper, '06 Political Science, and Jon Crowe, '02 Computer Engineering, also ran for the position.

Kline's term as a Faculty Senator will begin in September '98, however she'll attend her first meeting at University Park this coming April, for the experience. As of now, Kline is unaware of which committee she will be serving on, she said, "I don't think they tell you until you get down

there and then they assign you to committees."

Dr. Chris Reber, Dean of Student Affairs, is excited to have Kline representing the Behrend campus, saying, "Gretchen is an outstanding choice as an upper division student, she's had a lot of experience at Behrend and can reflect that in her discussions with colleges particularly in the committee to which she'll be appointed...She is articulate and understands the needs of students, two attributes that are important in this position."

As of now, Kline's approach to the position will be to, "Go and see what

it's like and bring back information from meetings to Behrend and get information and opinions as to what I should be taking back there... to carry the majority Behrend opinion to University Park."

When Kline's term begins this September she will be replacing the current Student Faculty Senator, Julie Cain, '08, Applied Mathematics. Cain is very enthusiastic about Kline's win, saying, "Gretchen will do an excellent, excellent job, she will be an excellent representative of the Behrend College."